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ABSTRACT

This teaching unit, "The Great Depression Unit," is the eighth in a series of 10 units about Alabama state history, part of a project designed to help teachers integrate the use of primary source materials into their classrooms. Although the units are designed to augment the study of Alabama, they are useful in the study of U.S. history, world history, and the social studies in general. Each unit contains background information for the teacher and consists of several lessons. Lessons contain learning objectives, suggested activities, and documents. This unit is divided into seven sections: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Lesson 1: "...we are in need." (three primary source documents and transcriptions); (3) "Lesson 2: "...a delegation of citizens" (one primary source document); (4) "Lesson 3: A Helping Hand" (one primary source document); (5) "Lesson 4: Relief!" (one primary source document); (6) "Lesson 5: STRIKE!" (four primary source documents); and (7) "Lesson 6: Spelling 'Help' in a New Way" (16 primary source documents). (BT)

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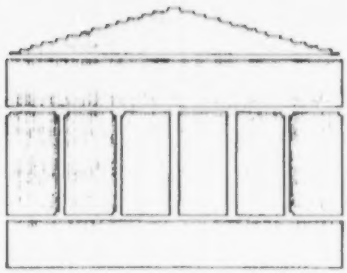

ADAH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Using Primary Sources in the Classroom

The Great Depression Unit

Alabama Department of Archives & History
624 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0100
Phone: (334) 242-4435
E-Mail:dpendlet@archives.state.al.us

http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep.html

SO 035 009

Updated July 13, 2001

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Project Description

This project is designed to help teachers more easily integrate the use of primary source materials into their classrooms. It consists of teaching units on Alabama history organized in ten chronological/subject areas:

- Creek War, 1813-1814
- Settlement
- Slavery
- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- 1901 Constitution
- World War I
- Depression/New Deal
- World War II
- Civil Rights Movement

While these units cover some of the most critical and significant periods in Alabama history, the selected lessons are meant to be representative rather than comprehensive. These units were designed to augment the study of Alabama, yet they are useful in the study of the United States, the world, and the social studies in general. The documents can also be used to supplement the study of other curriculums.

Each unit contains background information for the teacher and is made up of several lessons. The lessons contain learning objectives, suggested activities, and documents. Documents are reproduced in the original form and transcribed when necessary. Primary source materials may be printed and reproduced for classroom use. Lessons can be used without modification, adapted for specific class use, or entire new lessons and activities may be created based on the primary source materials provided.

Purpose of the Project

The 1992 Alabama Social Studies Course of Studies emphasized the use of primary source documents to "enrich the social studies program and enable students to visualize and empathize with people of other times and places." These documents help students vividly understand the feelings and actions of Jeremiah Austill at the Canoe Fight of 1813, of riders on the first integrated buses in Montgomery at the conclusion of the famous bus boycott, of women nursing wounded Civil War soldiers, and of destitute Alabama families during the Depression. These documents enrich the study of Alabama history and the study of all civilizations.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the official repository for Alabama government documents and holds many of the most important books, documents, visual materials and artifacts that document the history of Alabama and the South. The purpose of this project is to bring those materials to students, and to organize them in such a way that teachers can easily utilize them in the classroom.

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Using Primary Sources in the Classroom: The Great Depression Unit

Introduction to the Great Depression Unit

After World War I, America and Alabama experienced an economic boom. Large segments of the Alabama economy enjoyed the same boom, the war needs of the country having stimulated manufacturing in the state. A relatively diversified industrial sector featuring textile mills, coal mines, iron and steel furnaces, and timber saw mills produced treasured resources for the needs of World War I and after. As Alabama's population grew in the 1920s, business and industry increasingly were attracted to the state where labor was abundant and cheap. The resulting boom was concentrated in urban areas but much of Alabama shared in the immediate post-war prosperity. Although the Great Crash of the stock market in November 1929 was the accepted chronological starting point of the Great Depression, the economy of the United States had begun its downward slide earlier. In Alabama, agriculture had been "depressed" for the entire decade, directly effecting 78% of the population that lived in rural areas in 1920. Significant segments of the industrial economy had begun to decline in output and income as early as 1926. Thus, when the Great Depression hit, poorer Alabamians hardly registered the difference. State government, long accustomed to extending only the barest minimum in social services to its citizens, was quickly overwhelmed by the need to provide relief once the crash came in 1929.

The federal government initially did little, either. But after the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, a host of innovative relief and reform efforts were undertaken under the umbrella known as the "New Deal." The New Deal programs were designed to "give a hand up, not a hand out" and administered, for the most part, by conservative business and political leaders here in Alabama. Having long struggled with the effects of illiteracy, sickness, and poverty, Alabama's problems were too ingrained to respond quickly to the modest help offered by the New Deal. Demands for greater state assistance to the needy continued for much of the decade, as did demands for a more fundamental restructuring of the economic system.

The economic disasters of the 1930s spelled the beginning of the end for farm tenancy which had for so long characterized the agricultural economy. They also introduced a new radicalism among workers who increasingly looked to labor unions and the weapon of the "strike" to defend and improve their positions in the industrial economy. Ultimately, the advent of World War II and its need for war-related production brought lasting relief from the Great Depression.

Lesson 1: "...we are in need."

1. Background information for teachers:

Before the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, there were no social programs established on a national level to assist those families who were hungry and homeless. Outgoing-President Herbert Hoover had continued to hope that the economy would climb out of the Depression without significant government interference. Those who were suffering had to depend upon the traditional resources of their families and communities. Churches across the nation, along with private charitable institutions like the Red Cross, gave out food and opened soup kitchens. However, the resources of these concerned private groups were limited in the face of the magnitude of the deprivation.

As the following documents illustrate, some families approached state officials for assistance during these desperate times. Even after New Deal programs began to pass aid down to the states beginning in 1933, the assistance often was not enough to relieve the continuing want.

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2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Identify some of the needs of the poor during the Great Depression.

2. Compare Great Depression social programs with those established during President Lyndon Baines Johnson's "Great Society" and contrast those programs with the issues raised by the current "welfare reform" movement.

3. Develop negotiation skills while prioritizing needs.

4. Discuss government role in addressing the needs of the poor.

5. Analyze the economic ability of government to respond to requests for aid.

6. Synthesize a governmental response to requests for aid from the poor.

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3. Suggested Activities:

1. Make copies of the documents for each student.

2. Ask each student to read the documents and to describe the differences in the documents.

3. With the students' assistance make a class list of the difficulties that Mr. Gaines is experiencing.

   After making the list, allow the students to rank the problems by level of importance or need.

4. Ask the following questions for a class discussion:

   a. Why did Mr.Gaines write his letter to Mr. Peach?
   b. What kind of help was Mr. Peach able to offer Mr. Gaines?
   c. If you had been the Governor, which of Mr. Gaines's problems would you have tried to solve?
   d. Could the state afford to solve the same problem for every citizen who requested help?

   Look at your class list of Mr. Gaines's difficulties. Place a mark by each problem that you know can be helped today by federal or state agencies. (For example: Textbooks are provided by public schools. Medicare and Medicaid started during Johnson's"Great Society" have been created to offer some assistance to those who are disabled and ill. Agricultural agencies often offer assistance to farmers during non-productive years.)

   f. What kind of public assistance was available to the people of Alabama by the time of Mrs. Allen's letter in December of 1933?
   g. What kind of public assistance was available to the people of Alabama by the time of Mr. Martin's letter in April of 1934?
   h. What is the Welfare Reform Movement of 1996? What are some of the concerns that the American public has about the welfare programs? What is the difference between the social programs from earlier time periods and the social programs of today? Do you believe that the American public is less concerned about those who receive social assistance today? Why or why not?

5. Answer one of these letters by suggesting places or agencies that are able to help Mr. Gaines, Mrs. Allen or Mr. Martin in your time period.

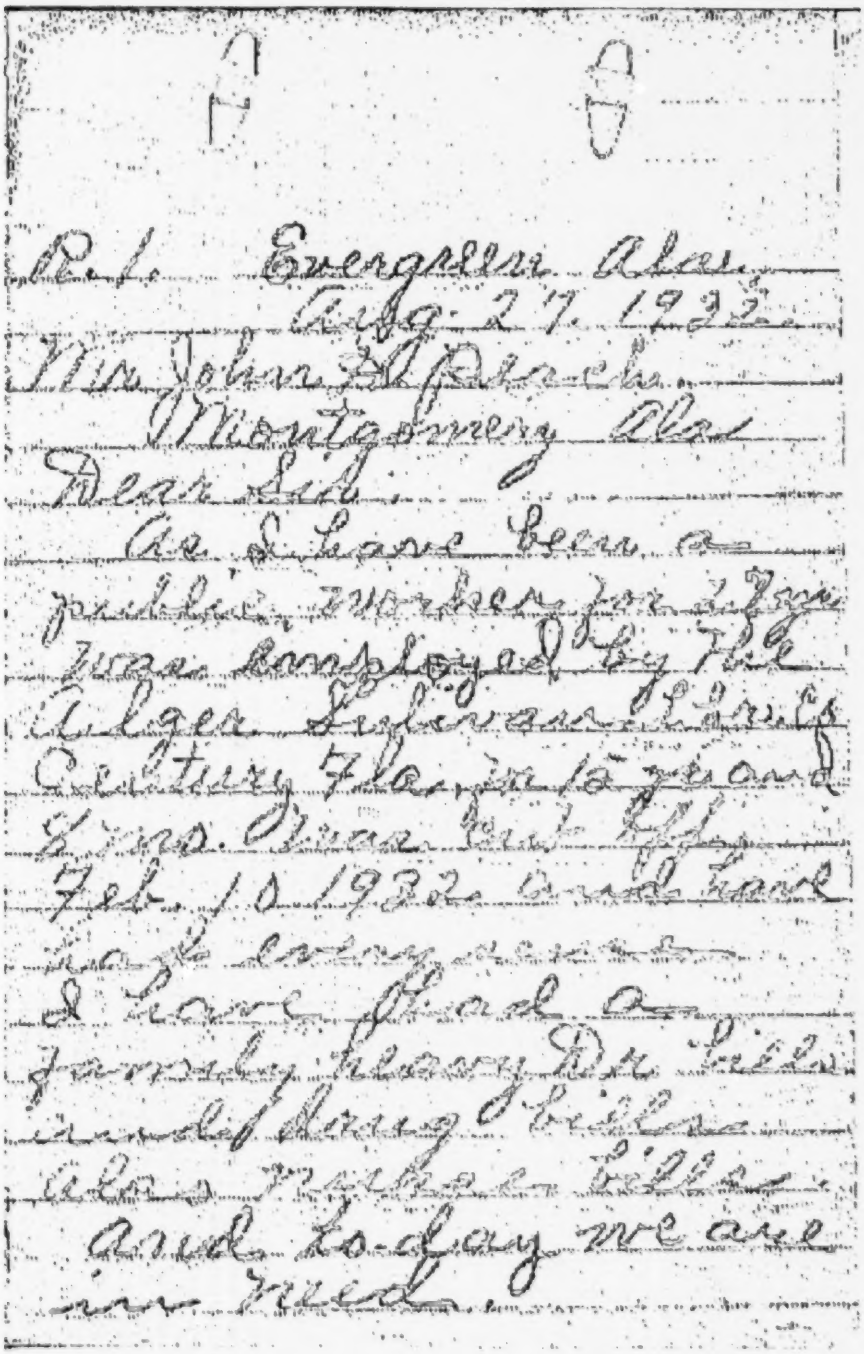
Documents:

Document 1: Letter: D. E. Gaines and reply, August 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative. Files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and

History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep1/doc1.html

Document 2: Letter: Mrs. A. J. Allen and reply, November - December, 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep1/doc2.html

Document 3: Letter: Jerry Martin and reply, April 1934, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep1/doc3.html



R. F. D. Evergreen Ala.
Aug. 27. 1932
Mr. John A. Patterson
Montgomery Ala
Dear Sir
As I have been a
public worker for the
years employed by the
Alger Sullivan Mills
Century Plant in Evergreen
Ala. since Feb 1st
Feb. 15 1932 and have
kept every cent
I have had a
family to keep Dr. bills
and drug bills
also Water bills
and to-day we are
in need

Document 1: Letter: D. E. Gaines and reply, August 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative. Files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

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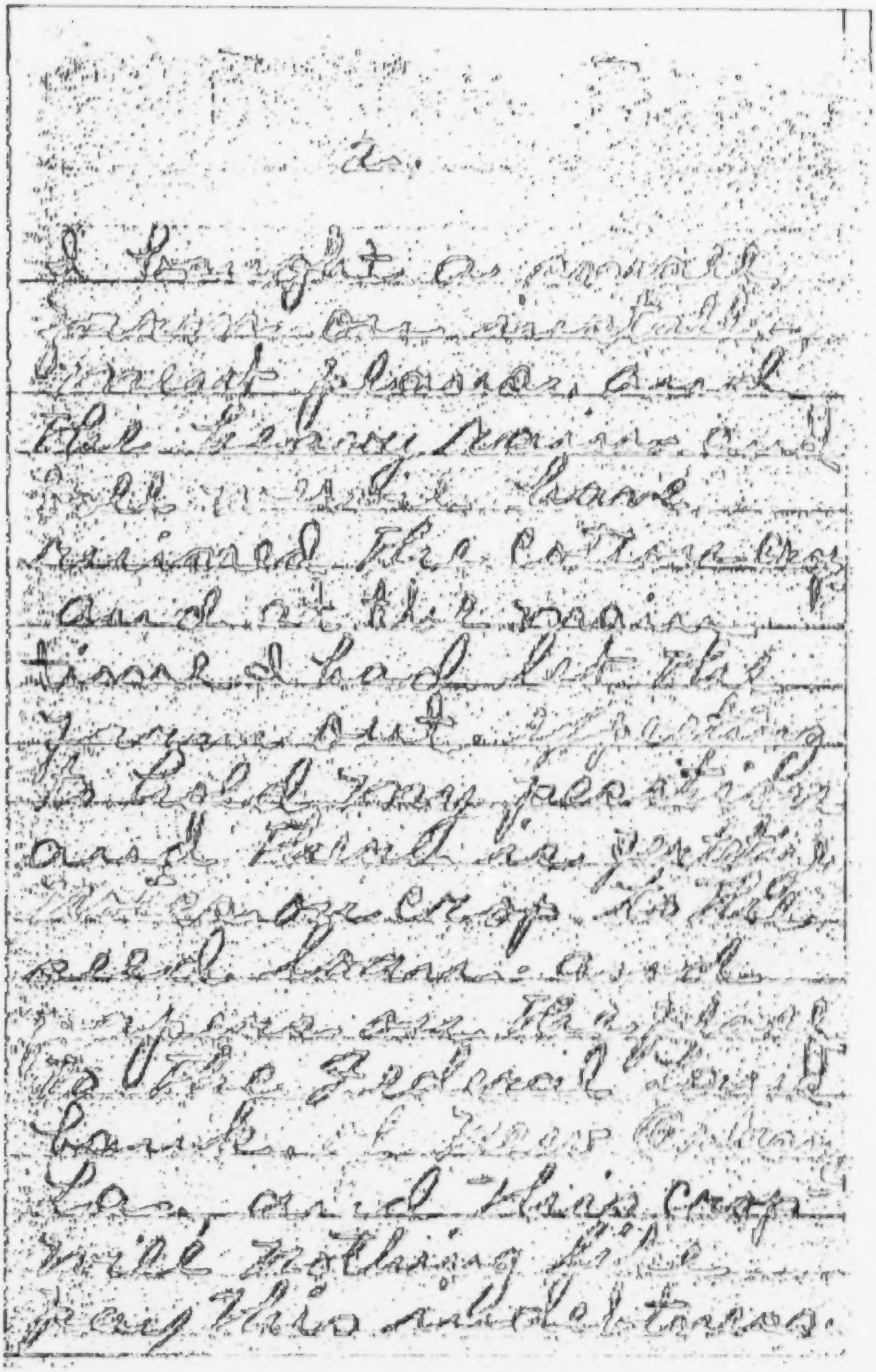

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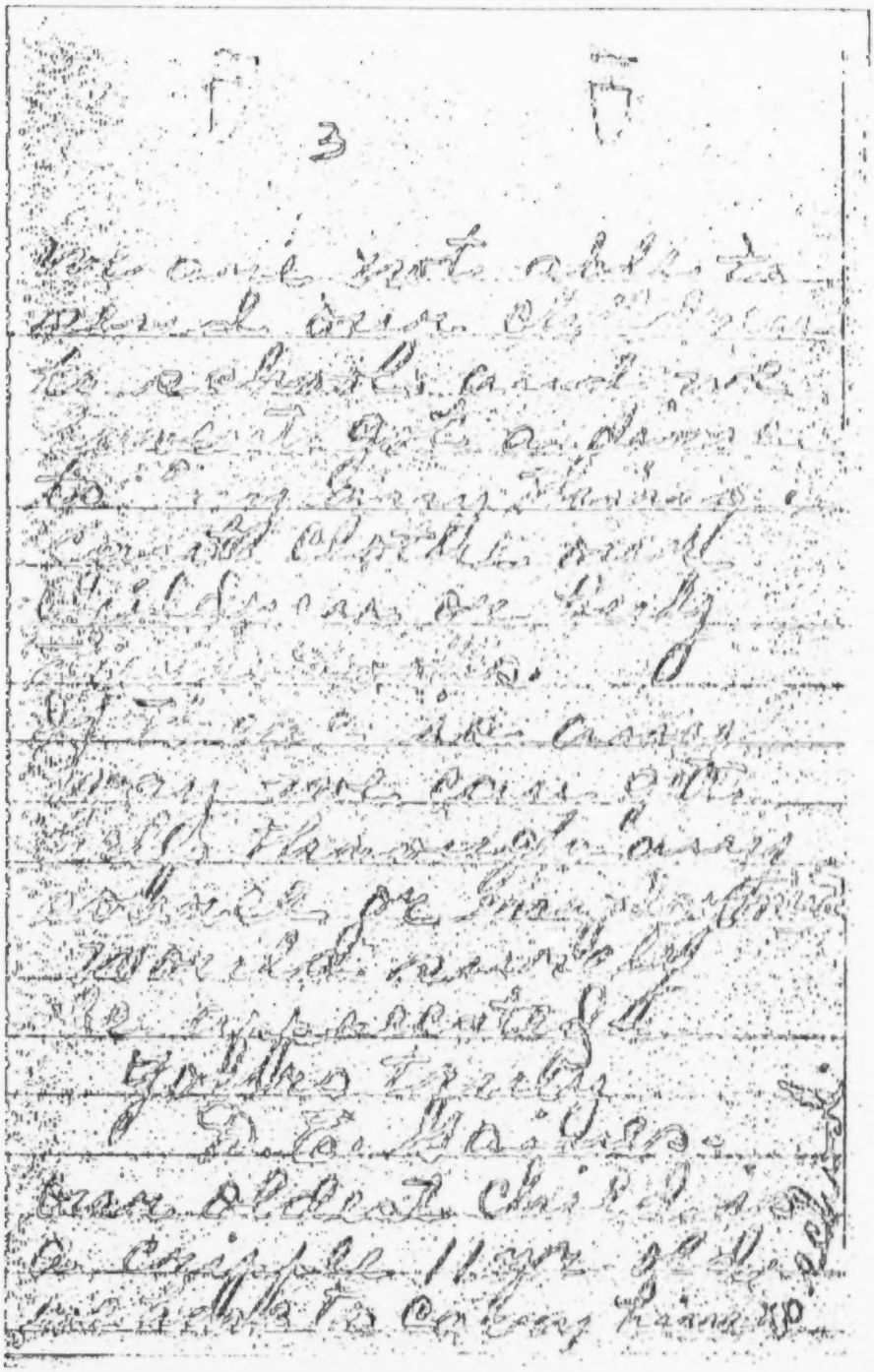

Document 1: Letter: D. E. Gaines and reply, August 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative. Files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 3.

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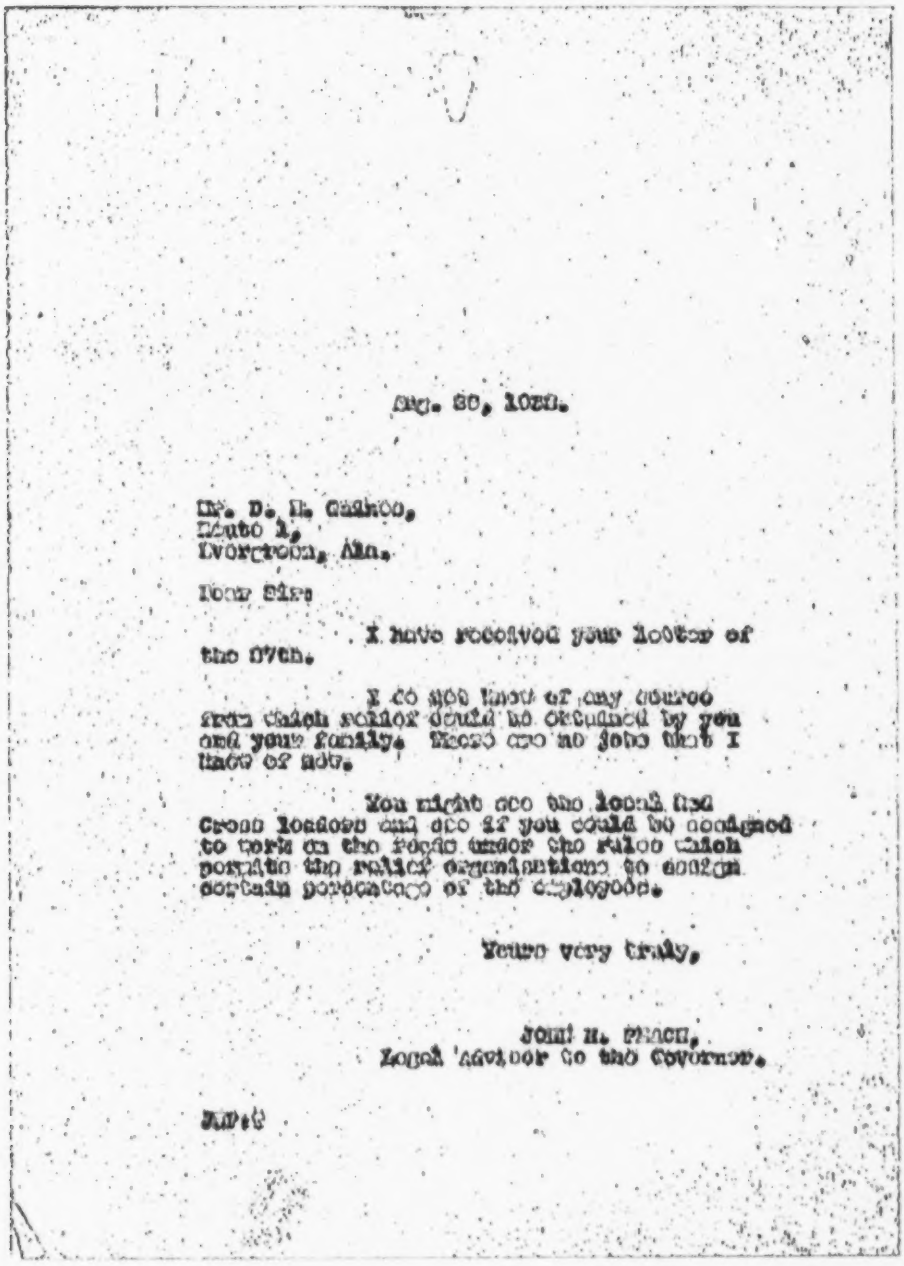

Aug. 30, 1932.

Mr. D. E. Gaines,
Route 1,
Ivorytown, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of the 27th.

I do not know of any source from which relief could be obtained by you and your family. Here are no jobs that I know of now.

You might see the local Red Cross Lodges and see if you could be assigned to work on the roads under the plan which permits the relief organizations to assign certain percentage of the employees.

Yours very truly,

John M. Finch,
Legal Advisor to the Governor.

JMF:C

Document 1: Letter: D. E. Gaines and reply, August 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative. Files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 4.

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Transcription of Document 1

Letter: D. E. Gaines, Evergreen, Alabama

R. 1. Evergreen Ala.,
Aug. 27. 1932.

Mr. John H. Peach.
Montgomery Ala

Dear Sir:

As I have been a public worker for 27 yr was employed by the Alger Sulivan Lbr. Co. Century, Fla, for 15 yr and 8 mo. Was cut off Feb. 10, 1932 and have had every sense. I have had a family heavy Dr. bills and drug bills also nurse bills. and to-day we are in need.

-2-

I bought a small farm on install-ment plans. And the heavy rain and boll weevil have ruined the cotton crop and at the main time I had let the farm out. Expecting to hold my position and there is fertetizer notes on crop to the seed loan. and papers on the place to the Federal Land bank. of New Orleans La., and this crop will nothing like pay this indebtness.

-3-

We are not able to send our children to school. and we havent got a dime to buy any thing. Cant clothe our children or buy there books. If there is any way we can get help through any source or employment would surely be appreciated-

Yours truly
D. E. Gaines

our oldest child is a cripple 11 yr. old. We have to carry him to school.

STATE OF ALABAMA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
MONTGOMERY

Dec. 1, 1933

Mrs. A. J. Allen,
Route #1, Box #63
Wilmer, Ala.

Dear Madam:

Governor Miller is in receipt of your letter of November 27th.

This has been referred to Mr. Thad Holt, Director Alabama Relief Administration, with the request that he give you consideration.

Yours very truly,

D. H. TURNER,
Secretary to the Governor.

DHT:M

Document 2: Letter: Mrs. A. J. Allen and reply, November - December, 1932, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

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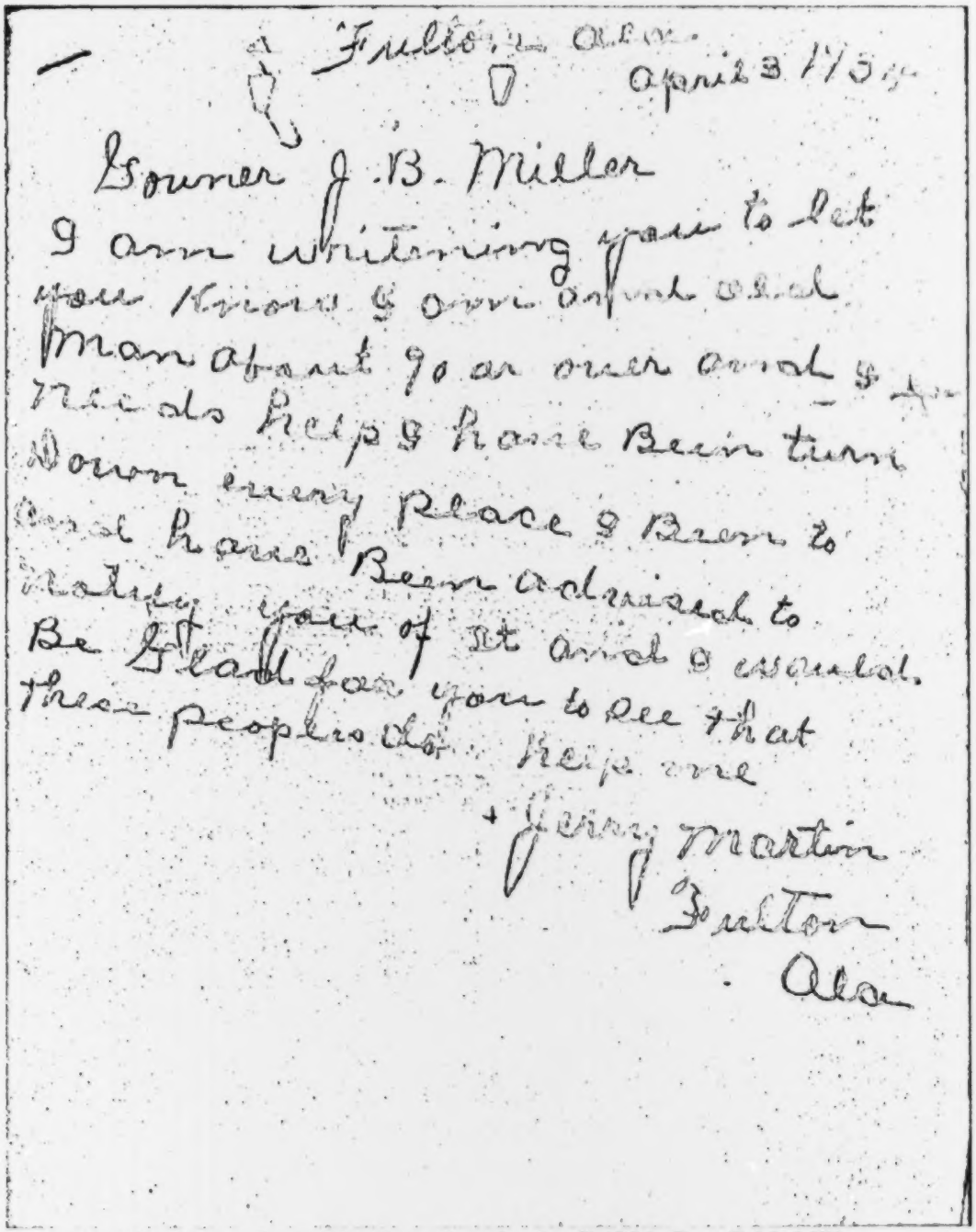

Fulton Ala.
April 3 1934

Governor J. B. Miller

I am writing you to let you know our condition. We are a very poor people about 90 per cent of us are needy people and have been turned down every place I been to and have been advised to write you of it and I would be glad for you to see that these people do. Help me

Jerry Martin
Fulton
Ala

Document 3 - Letter: Jerry Martin and reply, April 1934, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

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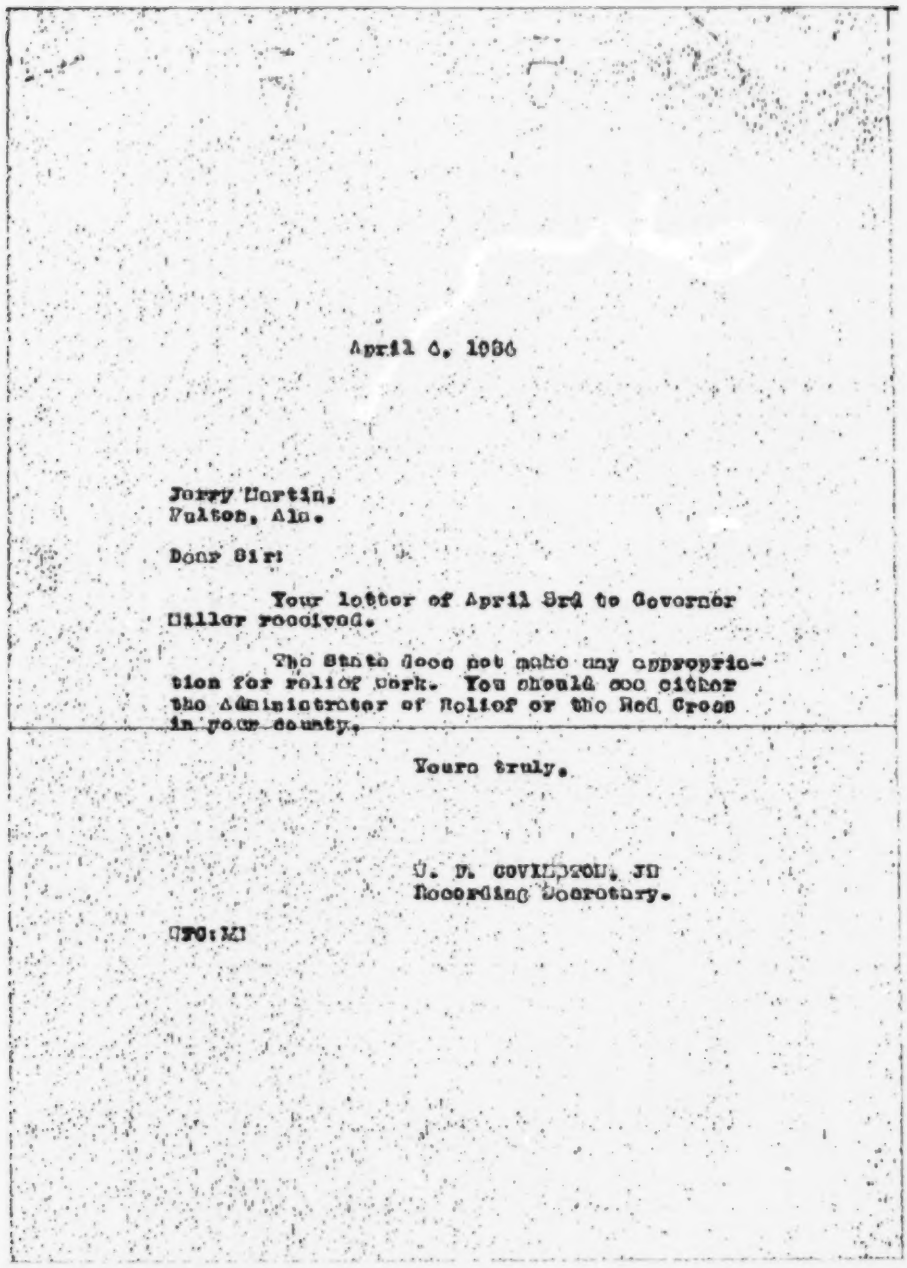

April 6, 1934

Jerry Martin,
Fulton, Ala.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 3rd to Governor Miller received.

The State does not make any appropriation for relief work. You should see either the Administrator of Relief or the Red Cross in your county.

Yours truly,

W. D. GOVINGTON, JR
Recording Secretary.

WDG:MI

Document 3 - Letter: Jerry Martin and reply, April 1934, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files SG19919, folder 7, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 2.

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Transcription of Document 3

Fulton, Ala.
April 3, 1934

Govner J. B. Miller

I am writening you to let you know I am and old man about 90 or over and I needs help I have Been turn Down every place I Been to and have Been advised to notify you of It and I would Be Glad for you to see that these peoples do help me

Jerry Martin
Fulton
Ala

Lesson 2: ". . . a delegation of citizens"

1. Background information for teachers:

Depression-era Governor Benjamin Meek Miller proposed a tax package to the 1932 Alabama legislature as a means of boosting the state's income to fight the economic disaster. Conservative business leaders defeated the proposals in that year, plunging state finances into chaos. In January of 1933, Miller called the legislature back into special session and, in the aftermath of widespread school closings, it grudgingly passed a new tax program (including the state's first income tax).

While the state's politicians haggled over whether new taxes were needed and in what form, destitute groups of Alabamians cried for immediate relief. Some of these groups requested not only immediate economic relief, but fundamental changes in the government's role in the welfare of its disadvantaged citizens.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the multiple sides of the issue of governmental responsibilities.
2. Analyze the economic ability of the government to respond to requests for aid.
3. Synthesize a governmental response to requests for aid from the disadvantaged.
4. Identify and define the poll tax.
5. Define socialism and capitalism.

3. Suggested Lesson:

1. Define socialism and capitalism.
2. Give a copy of the document from the Unemployed Councils of Alabama to each student.
3. Read the measures suggested by the Unemployed Councils of Alabama for dealing with the rising numbers of families in need during the Great Depression.
4. Divide the class into groups of four.

5. The groups each represent an advisor to the Governor. Each group should select a spokesperson to present their views. They should approach this letter from several positions. Some suggested committees are:

   a. The finance committee- responsible for "paying the bills" of the government as well as making recommendations about raising capital for the state.
   b. The utilities committee- responsible for providing utilities to the citizens of the state but they must also continue to operate their businesses so that their employees can be paid and their stockholders can make a return on their investments.
   c. The education committee- responsible for providing schools and teachers for the state.
   d. The human resources committee- responsible for providing assistance to children.
   e. The business and commerce committee- responsible for bringing businesses into Alabama and urging the city and state governments to provide these new businesses with tax cuts and other incentives to move to Alabama.
   f. The public relations committee- responsible for insuring that the voters of Alabama are informed about the work and concerns of the Governor. This group may also discuss racial concerns.

6. Have the students decide what type of government would exist if the recommendations of the Unemployed Councils of Alabama were accepted as written.

7. After the groups present their ideas and concerns, each student will write a letter of reply to the Unemployed Councils of Alabama as if he/she is the governor.

Documents:

Document 1: Unemployed Councils of Alabama Letter: James Burke, author, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19952, folder 21, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep2/doc1.html

To the Governor and the State Legislature.

We, a delegation of citizens, elected in a mass of cities of Alabama by the unemployed under the leadership of the Unemployed Council, are delegated to present the following statement:

At the same time that the State Legislature is in special session there exists widespread unemployment and utter misery among the people of Alabama. The relief being afforded by the Red Cross is entirely inadequate, and is nothing but a slow process of starvation. The various self help schemes in the cities are plans to keep the unemployed on a permanent pauper level. The conditions of the unemployed in getting work, unemployment insurance, and the practice of inadequate relief in the farmers local exchanges, the thousands of unemployed and their families.

The special session is not attempting to meet this need. The questions being discussed at the Legislature are to increase the burdens of the people, put them a general sales tax, etc. All the so called economy measures are attempts to lower the living standards of the people.

In answer to these conditions, we have been elected as a delegation to present the following demands for immediate unemployment relief, which we believe should take precedence over all questions before the Legislature:

1. $3 each weekly relief for the average family, in addition to the present local relief, pending passage of an unemployment insurance bill.

2. Free utilities (gas, light, water and coal) for all unemployed and part time workers earning less than $7.00 a week.

3. Adequate care for homeless, young and single workers.

4. Provision for opening of all schools, payment of salaries to teachers and free lunches and books for school children.

5. Right to vote for all unemployed without payment of poll tax.

6. No discrimination against Negroes in all of these demands.

The Unemployed Councils of Alabama stand opposed to a sales tax or any tax upon the workers and farmers. We propose heavy graduated income, property and inheritance taxes on the wealthy landlords, bankers and capitalists. We propose a loan of $20,000,000 from the R. F. C. to alleviate the misery of the unemployed and part time workers of Alabama in the present emergency.

James Burke, Secretary,
Unemployed Councils of Alabama

J. Burke
J. Williams

Document 1 - Unemployed Councils of Alabama Letter: James Burke, author, Governor B.M. Miller Administrative files, SG19952, folder 21, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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Lesson 3: A Helping Hand

1. Background information for teachers:

Governor Benjamin M. Miller was elected in 1930 pledging to restore economy in state government. Renowned for his personal frugality and conservatism (he had only two cars in his inaugural "parade"), his belief in the limited role of government in the lives of its citizens was tested by the hard economic circumstances of the Great Depression.

Most Alabamians at the outset of his term in 1931 doubtlessly shared his views. But by that time community and business leaders were becoming increasingly aware that the economic problems were not going to go away without some form of government leadership. As the winter of 1931-32 approached, concern was mounting over the continuing availability of food in the season when home gardens would not be producing. Spokesmen for rural, small-town Alabama were among those who sought to convince state government to take action to slow the continuing economic slide.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast living standards of the Great Depression era with those of today.
2. Define the role of a civic organization in a community.
3. Discuss the importance of seasonal work upon the economic status of a community.

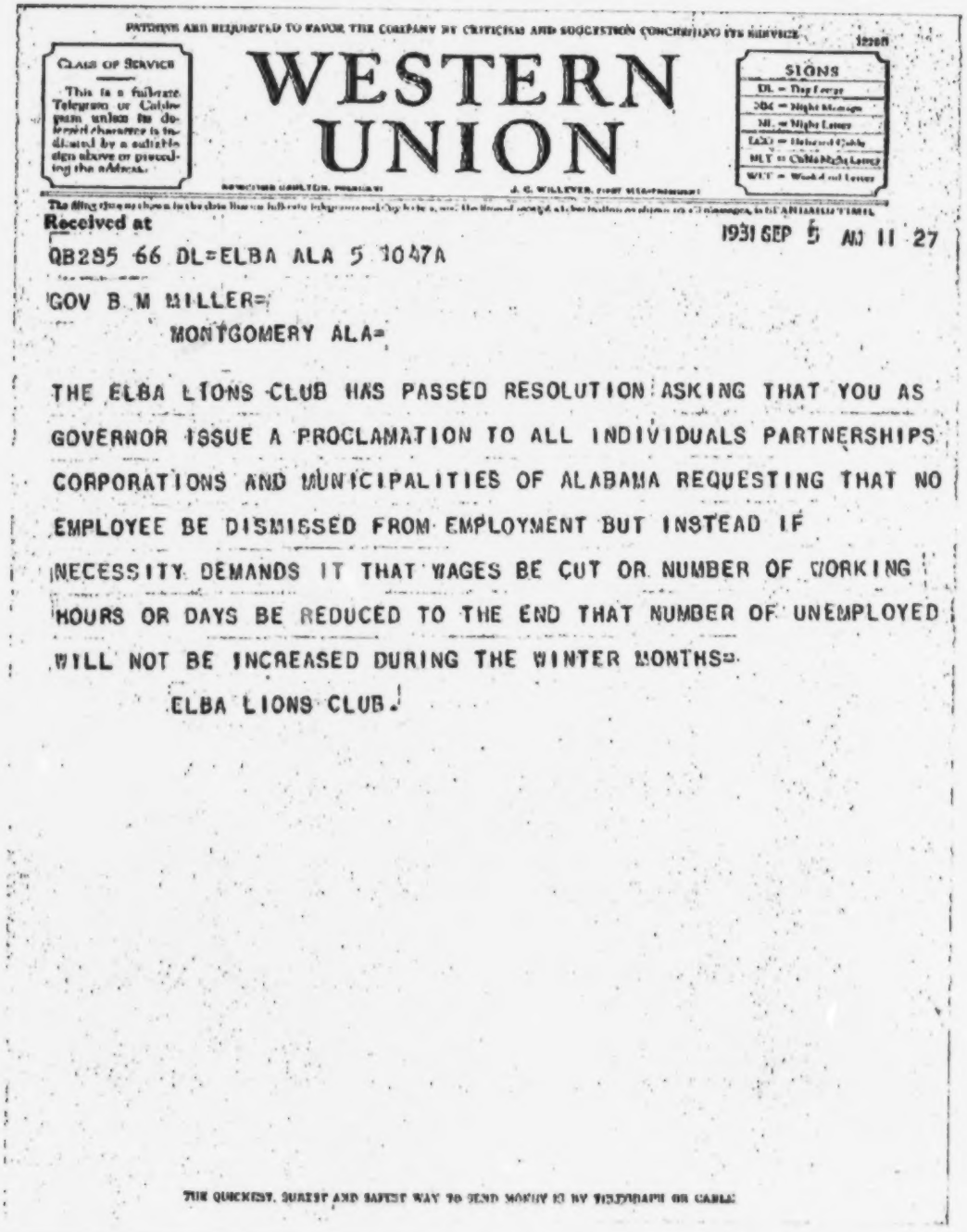
3. Suggested Lesson:

1. Make copies of the Elba Lions Club telegram.
2. Provide the students with a copy of the telegram.
3. Ask students the following questions:
   a. What is a civic group? What kinds of services do these groups perform for cities?
   b. What kinds of occupations do you think the men of the Elba Lions Club had?

c. Why do you believe these men were concerned about the unemployed particularly in the winter months? How would winter unemployment affect the economic balance of the towns and cities of Alabama? What are some of the possibilities for employment in other times of the year?

Documents:

Document 1: Western Union Telegram: Elba Lions Club, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19952, folder 20, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep3/doc1.html



PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fullrate Telegram or Cable-gram unless its de-ferred character is in-dicated by a suitable sign above or preced-ing the address.

WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-end Letter

Received at

1931 SEP 5 AM 11 27

QB285 66 DL=ELBA ALA 5 1047A

GOV B M MILLER=

MONTGOMERY ALA=

THE ELBA LIONS CLUB HAS PASSED RESOLUTION ASKING THAT YOU AS GOVERNOR ISSUE A PROCLAMATION TO ALL INDIVIDUALS PARTNERSHIPS CORPORATIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF ALABAMA REQUESTING THAT NO EMPLOYEE BE DISMISSED FROM EMPLOYMENT BUT INSTEAD IF NECESSITY DEMANDS IT THAT WAGES BE CUT OR NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS OR DAYS BE REDUCED TO THE END THAT NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WILL NOT BE INCREASED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS=

ELBA LIONS CLUB.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Document 1: Western Union Telegram: Elba Lions Club, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19952, folder 20, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Lesson 4: Relief !

1. Background information for teachers:

After the New Deal programs began to be implemented in 1933, relief in the form of help to supply basic necessities began to flow down to the states from the federal government. Relief committees were set up on the county level to purchase and distribute food to the needy. Following the principle of offering "a hand up, not a hand out," government programs of relief concentrated on supplying only essential foods to the truly destitute.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast living standards of the Great Depression era with those of today.

2. Discuss the nutrition and health of the assisted during the Great Depression.

---

3. Suggested Lesson:

1. As a class, make a list of food items that the students believe is essential for survival.

2. Compare the list with the Relief Order for similarities and differences.

3. Ask the students if any of the foods listed need refrigeration. Why is this an important fact?

(Remember, electricity was not widespread in Alabama during the Great Depression. Ice was a luxury in some parts of the state so food that could be stored long periods of time were important to survival.)

4. How could these foods have supplemented the basic food groups? Are these healthy foods?

5. Using the grocery store ads attempt to determine the current prices of the Relief Order.

6. Remind students of differences in wages. Some families only had $5.00 per week for living costs.

Documents:

Document 1: Relief Order: 4/7/34, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep4/doc1.html

RELIEF ORDER

SERIAL No. 405545

Emergency Relief

Of Franklin County Date 4-7-34

M City Supply Co.

Address—Town City

Please Furnish To

M Hall Bentley

Address—Town City

with the articles listed below:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	Unit Prices	AMOUNT
½	Sow Meal		.50
2	Lbs Oatmeal		.25
5	Cans Milk		.25
1	Lbs. Rice & Potatoes		.30
6	Lbs. Dried Beans		.24
7	Cans Tomatoes		.84
6	Lbs Cabbage		.24
3	Lbs Dried Fruit		.38
3	Lbs. Onions		.18
1	Lbs. Lard		.60
1	Gal. Molasses		.55
12	Lbs. Meat		.24
1	Box Salt & 1 Box Soda		.15
		TOTAL	$4.77

and charge to EMERGENCY RELIEF Franklin County.

Issued by [illegible] Field Worker

Signed [illegible] Chairman of Relief Committee

By [illegible]

IMPORTANT

This order must be signed by party receiving articles from you and one copy must accompany your invoice in triplicate which you will bring to the Chairman of Relief at Court House, _____ Ala. Do not honor this order if altered or changed in any manner. Price each article listed separately. Render your bill immediately. Retain one copy of this order for your files.

Received Above Articles _____

(Must be signed by party receiving relief)

Form A.R.A.-E BROWN PRINTING CO., MONTGOMERY, ALA., 1934

Document 1: Relief Order: 4/7/34, Gov. B.M. Miller, Administrative files, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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Lesson 5: STRIKE!!!

1. Background information for teachers:

The economic dislocations of the Great Depression created fear and anxiety in Alabama's citizens. Urban areas like Birmingham and Huntsville were especially hard hit. Heavily dependent on industry, these cities suffered greatly when the wages and/or hours of its citizens began to be cut back in an effort to combat the economic problems.

The severity of the economic problems prompted political groups to agitate for fundamental changes in the economic and political systems of the nation and their arguments found a larger audience among the increasingly desperate workers. In 1930 the Communist Party concentrated its southern efforts in Birmingham and began organizing and publishing a newspaper, the *Southern Worker*.

Labor unions and the "strike" weapon seemed to many workers the only way to gain relief and recognition. Unions experienced an increase in membership after the passage of Section 7(a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act which guaranteed workers the right to organize and bargain collectively. This "legitimized" union membership in the eyes of many Alabama workers, especially miners and textile workers, who began responding to the efforts of union organizers.

Many Alabamians responded to the call for changes to the status quo from labor and political organizations. Even racial and gender divisions that were so common for so long in Alabama became blurred in the resulting confrontations between workers and management.

IDENTIFICATIONS:

a. T.C.I.: Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. The largest single employer in Alabama in 1930, it was primarily involved in the production of iron, steel and coal.

b. N.R.A.: National Recovery Administration created in 1932 by the Roosevelt Administration to, among othwer tasks, adjust wages and hours nationally in an attempt to keep business and industry operating.

c. U.M.W.A.: United Mine Workers of America. A union formed to assist steel and mine workers in labor issues such as wages and safety/health.

d. I. L. D.: International Labor Defense Fund. A Communist-front organization that agitated among coal and steel industry workers in the city of Birmingham during the Great Depression.

e. Scottsboro Boys: Nine African-American men convicted of the rape of two white women on a train near Scottsboro, Ala. The case became a symbol for the injustices of the southern legal system in the 1930s. See http://www.afro.com/history/scott/scotts.html for more information.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Discuss some of the fears and needs of workers in Alabama during The Great Depression.
2. Discuss the racial and gender issues being raised.
3. Identify a strike and its participants.
4. Identify some of the issues of a labor strike.
5. Discuss some of the economic and political issues of the time period.
6. Evaluate the multiple views presented by historic documents.

---

3. Suggested Lesson:

1. Give each student a copy of a different document.
2. Students should use the general suggestions for analyzing a written document found at the introduction.
3. After reading and analyzing his/her assigned document, each student should write a statement to the press as Governor concerning the proposed actions of the documents.
4. At the completion of this activity, give each student a copy of the letter from J. A. Murphy and Governor Miller's response. Allow the students to decide if they support Governor Miller or Mr. Murphy after reading the documents.

Documents:

Document 1: Communist Party handbills, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. See attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep5/doc1.html

Document 2: The Lincoln Mills of Huntsville strike settlement records, Alabama Department of Labor, Labor dispute case files, SG4191, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep5/doc2.html

Document 3: Letter, Mr. J.A. Murphy, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep5/doc3.html

Document 4: "Photograph of mine foreman" WPA Alabama Writers Project, photographs, LPP 1, container 2, folder 11, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep5/doc4.html

Workers — White And Negro
UNITE TO WIN!

ANGELO HERNDON

"This is our day. Every Birmingham worker should consider it his proud right and duty to join his fellows in Struggle on May Day," says Wirt Taylor, young leader of the unemployed, framed up for speaking at a demonstration for relief November 7, 1932.

"From Fulton Tower Prison, Atlanta, Georgia, I call to the white and Negro toilers of Birmingham to demand my release, to demand immediate freedom for Willie Peterson, framed up miner and war veteran and for the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. Carry on the struggle for those of us who cannot be with you in person today."—ANGELO HERNDON, young Negro leader, says.

WIRT TAYLOR

Miners, steel and metal workers—spread the strike struggle against the bosses. Make MAY DAY a historic landmark of militant struggle for the Birmingham working class. Rally at the call of the I.L.D. which comes forth to defend all strikers and all militant toilers, white or black. Defy the terror and Jim Crow orders of the bosses.

The I. L. D. calls upon you to raise these demands right beneath the windows where the lynchers are trying to murder the innocent Scottsboro boys. We call upon white and Negro to defy such attempts of the ruling class to split the ranks of the toilers. We say, unite, demonstrate together for—

1. **Immediate, unconditional release** and safe conduct for the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. Against the attempts to kill them in jail.
2. **Arrest and Conviction** for murder, of the police murderers of Ed England, striking miner. Payment of idemnities by the T. C. I. and the State to the family of England and the wounded white and Negro strikers.
3. **Freedom for Tom Mooney,** Willie Peterson Wirt Taylor, Alice Burke, Angelo Herndon and all class war prisoners.
4. **Against All Attempts** to interfere with and deny white and Negro workers their rights to assemble, organize, strike and picket.
5. **Against Fascism** in all forms. Against such boss organizations as the White Legion and K. K. K.
6. **Against Boss War.** Stop the war preparations against the Soviet Union.

TOM MOONEY

Every Worker To Capitol Park
20th Street and 6th Avenue
TUESDAY, MAY 1st, 5:00 p.m.

Demonstrate
MAY DAY

Join And Build The

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

2031½ NORTH 5th AVENUE

LEADING MILITANT LABOR SPEAKERS.

NOTE:—The City Commission has been forced to grant a permit. Thousands must turn out to assure NO TRICKS — HANDS OFF THE DEMONSTRATION!

Document 1: Communist Party handbills, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

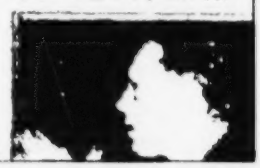
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FOR HIGHER WAGES!
FOR RECOGNITION OF THE LABOR UNIONS!!

CAPITOL PARK, MAY 1, at 5 p. m.

FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



WE WANT

...relief at a minimum of $30 per week, for all unemployed workers. We demand that Congress pass the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, H. R. 7598, providing full support for those who are out of jobs.

An immediate $5 per week minimum wage increase. No wage differential.

No segregation of our unions. The right to strike and picket without interference from police, deputized thugs or national guards.

Equal rights for Negroes and self-determination for the Black Belt. Right of Negroes to their jobs.

The right to vote for the Negro masses and for the white workers. No poll tax payments or other conditions. Voters, don't vote in the Democratic primaries May 5th. **VOTE COMMUNIST IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.**

Freedom for the 9 innocent Scottsboro boys, for Tom Mooney, Willie Peterson, Angelo Herndon and all workers framed by the bosses' courts.

No more bosses' wars for the profits of the rich. We will defend the Soviet Union (Russia), the great land where the workers rule, from any capitalist attack. We will vote the Union Jack vote to war against the bosses.

United candidates now, and a United America where the bosses will be kicked out and the workers, the people will run the U. S. and run everything.

STRIKERS! MINERS AND STEEL WORKERS! ALL WORKING MEN AND WOMEN!

These demands are our demands! Issued by the thousands to United State Workers May 1st. Pay no heed to other workers, being other workers dupes to the Communists calls you. White and Negro workers, elect leaders of the Communists! United your workers front against the capitalist attack. Pay no attention to false leaders or traitors, every who denounces the Communists calls you to fight WITH: GOMPERS THROUGH WITH AFL, says CHANNING.

WORKERS, JOIN THE PARTY THAT BUILT THE WORKING CLASS. BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY NOW!

CLARENCE HATHAW...

Outstanding Agitator for ... ed, scheduled to ... of the Dimitrov ... the demonstration. ... chosen by the ... Congress a few weeks ago. City Committee now say, Hathaway may be good ... to speak to Congress, ... before workers ... will be the ...

ALL OUT TO

CAPITOL PARK, 20th Street and 7th Avenue N., at 5 P. M., Tuesday, May 1

Document 1: Communist Party handbills, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 2.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Miners, Fight To Win!
Steel Workers, Strike!

NOW is the time to fight. NOW is the time to win higher wages. Steel workers, ore miners, a victory for the miners is a victory for you! Join the strike for higher wages and to smash the differential.

The Southern bosses just met in Birmingham, yapping about whether "civil war and secession" to keep the masses enslaved. Now is the time for workers to meet this attack and defeat it.

Workers, don't be fooled! For six months under the N. R. A. code, the Alabama miners were forced to work for half the wages of Northern miners. The new rate of pay, $1.20 increase a day, was introduced because of the great struggles of the miners, as well as the fight of the Northern operators against the Southern operators for greater profits.

The NRA has not made one step in raising the wages of the workers in the other industries. Only organized, united struggle, with no dependence on the double dealing Wall Street NRA which is already compromising on the $1.20, can raise our wages and smash the differential.

Mitch and the other district officials of the U. M. W. of A. sold out the last strike, and cruelly agreed not to ask for any pay increase for a year. Our present strike is against the agreement made by Mitch, which did not include the captive mines of the TCI and the TCI miners have struck over the heads of the district officials. Miners, take the leadership in your own hands, elect strike committees in the mines, see that all negotiations are made through the central strike committee of elected miners.

The unity of white and Negro miners has been a stirring example of how the workers must fight to win their demands. Let the bosses are yelling about "impending racial conflict" while the white and Negro miners are on the picket line together and while the armed thugs of the bosses murder a Negro picket and wound a white fellow-worker with the same volley of bullets. Unity paves the way to victory.

The miners' strike must be won! They can win the war against the NRA slave differential with the support of the steel and metal workers and the ore miners. Unless the miners win the strike, it means that the bosses will batter down the wage standards of the miners, and open fresh attacks on all Southern workers!

The Communist Party is giving leadership to the workers and raising real demands for them. The Communist Party calls on the workers in every steel and metal plant, in every ore mine of the Birmingham area, to call meetings at once, to elect committees of action in their mines and mills, to build a militant Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union, and to prepare to strike all these plants and mines in solidarity, with their brother miners and for an immediate minimum wage increase of 20 per cent for every worker. By spreading the strike to the steel mills and ore mines, the workers will show the NRA authorities at their meeting in Washington on May 31 the steel code, that the workers are against any pay differential. Thus this united action at the same time helps to win the strike of the miners and their own burning demands.

The Communist Party calls on the miners to organize real rank and file groups in their locals, and calls upon all workers to support the following demands of the fighting miners:

1. Keep the mines shut till we get the $1.20 increase and the 7-hour day from top to top.

2. Develop rank and file leadership by the election of strike committees in every local.

3. Carry on mass picketing and bring the maintenance crews out.

4. Demand withdrawal of the deputized thugs and national guards. Demand conviction for murder of Chief of Police Mason, cash indemnity for Ed England's family from the Red Diamond Coal Company.

5. Equal pay and right to any job for Negro miners.

6. Cash relief from government for all miners during the strike, equal to average wages.

7. For absolute recognition of the U. M. W. A.

Miners! Steel workers! Working men and women, white and Negro! Join your own Party, that fights for higher wages, at the same time that it leads the revolutionary struggle to build a Soviet America. Join the Communist Party! Be one of thousands of workers to celebrate May Day—world labor day at Capitol Park steps Tuesday, May 1st at 5 p. m.

ISSUED BY COMMUNIST PARTY—BOX 1813, Birmingham, Ala.

Document 1: Communist Party handbills, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 3.

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THE LINCOLN MILLS

Huntsville, Ala.

Strike February 12, 1936 to May 20, 1936

Number Involved

Male - 960

Female - 640

Memorandum

Those participating in negotiations

WORKERS COMMITTEE

O. B. Kannan
W. T. Adcock
Harry T. Owen
Hollie Dowd

THE LINCOLN MILLS

W. A. Harrell, President
Chas. D. McAuley, Treasurer
P. T. Pooler, Superintendent

UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS

John A. Peel, Vice President
Ralph Ozy

TEXTILE LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

S. R. McClurd, Executive Assistant
J. C. Cooper

TEXTILE LOCAL UNION #1978

H. C. Groves, President
Harry R. Owen, Secretary

STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

H. C. Hughes

ARBITER

Hon. Robert R. Moore,
Commissioner of Labor

Adjusted - Exchange of Letters

Expires December 31, 1936.

Document 2: The Lincoln Mills of Huntsville strike settlement records, Alabama Department of Labor, Labor dispute case files--Madison County, SG4191, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LINCOLN MILLS

Huntsville, Alabama

Strike February 12, 1936 - May 20, 1936.

After the National Textile Strike this mill resumed operations under a verbal agreement with the Management.

The union alleged that discrimination was being practiced and an attempt was made, for some thirty days prior to the strike, to negotiate a written contract to replace the verbal agreement under which the mill was operating.

During this time a religious meeting had been held at the village and among other things the preacher told his followers that it was sinful to belong to any union or to any organization except the church. This caused several to go to the office and request that no further union dues be deducted from their pay.

With this additional friction and the inability of the committee to negotiation the contract, a strike was called February 12, 1936.

The question of relief became acute and this Department attempted to get relief from the Department of Public Welfare but were only partially successful.

Additional friction developed when charges of dynamite were exploded near the mill and several hundred windows were broken during a thunderstorm on March 19, 1936.

On May 20,1936, an understanding was reached between John A. Peel, third vice president United Textile Workers and Mr. Chas. D. McDuffie, Treasurer of the Lincoln Mills, settling the strike. An exchange of letters outlined the terms of settlement which included reinstatement of all workers except one Elias Warren whose case was to be decided by arbitration.

Both sides agreed upon the selection of Honorable Robert R. Moore, Commissioner of Labor.

This responsibility was accepted by Mr. Moore, who after receipt of several affidavits and a personal investigation in Huntsville, during which time other witnesses were heard, rendered a decision which was forwarded to interested parties June 29, 1936.

Document 2: The Lincoln Mills of Huntsville strike settlement records, Alabama Department of Labor, Labor dispute case files--Madison County, SG4191, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 2.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LINCOLN MILLS

Huntsville, Alabama

$295,680.00.

Duration of strike	-	14 weeks
Number of employees	-	1,600
Average wage	-	$13.20 per week
1,600 x 14 weeks	-	22,400 man weeks
22,400 x $13.20	-	$295,680.00 loss in wages

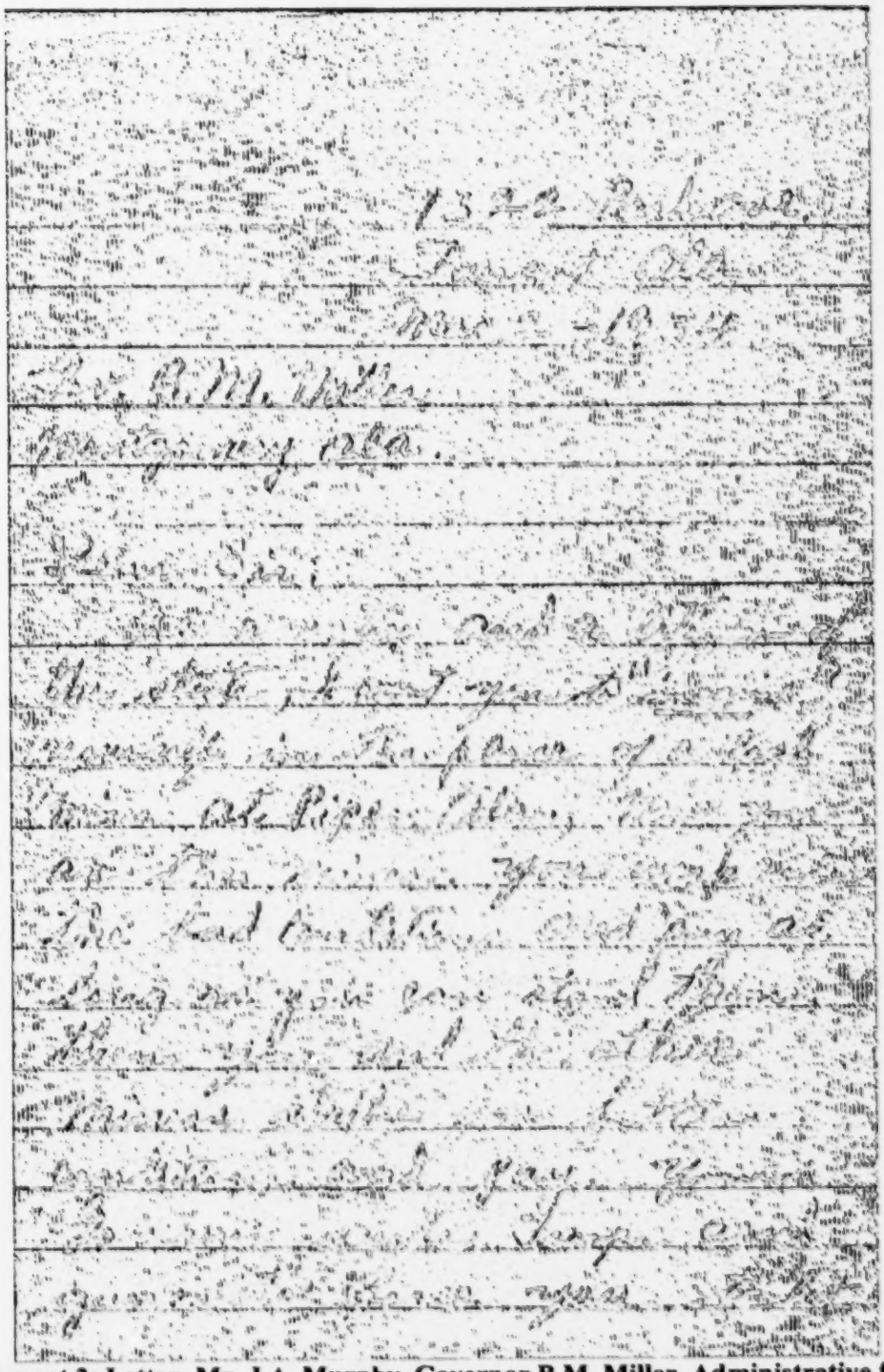
Basing our percentages on a survey by the United States Department of Labor begun in fall of 1934 in Birmingham, as to the usual division of wages of earners in the lower paid brackets we estimate this amount would have been spent in about the following manner.

Food	Clothing	Housing	Housing equipment operation and necessary expenses	Incidentals
30.6%	11.3%	12.5%	26.4%	19.2%
$90,478.08	$33,411.84	$36,960.00	$78,059.52	$56,770.56

This is the approximate loss to the merchants and others in the Huntsville district; in addition are the losses from company purchases on which no figures are available.

Document 2: The Lincoln Mills of Huntsville strike settlement records, Alabama Department of Labor, Labor dispute case files--Madison County, SG4191, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 3.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Document 3: Letter- Mr. J.A. Murphy, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 1.

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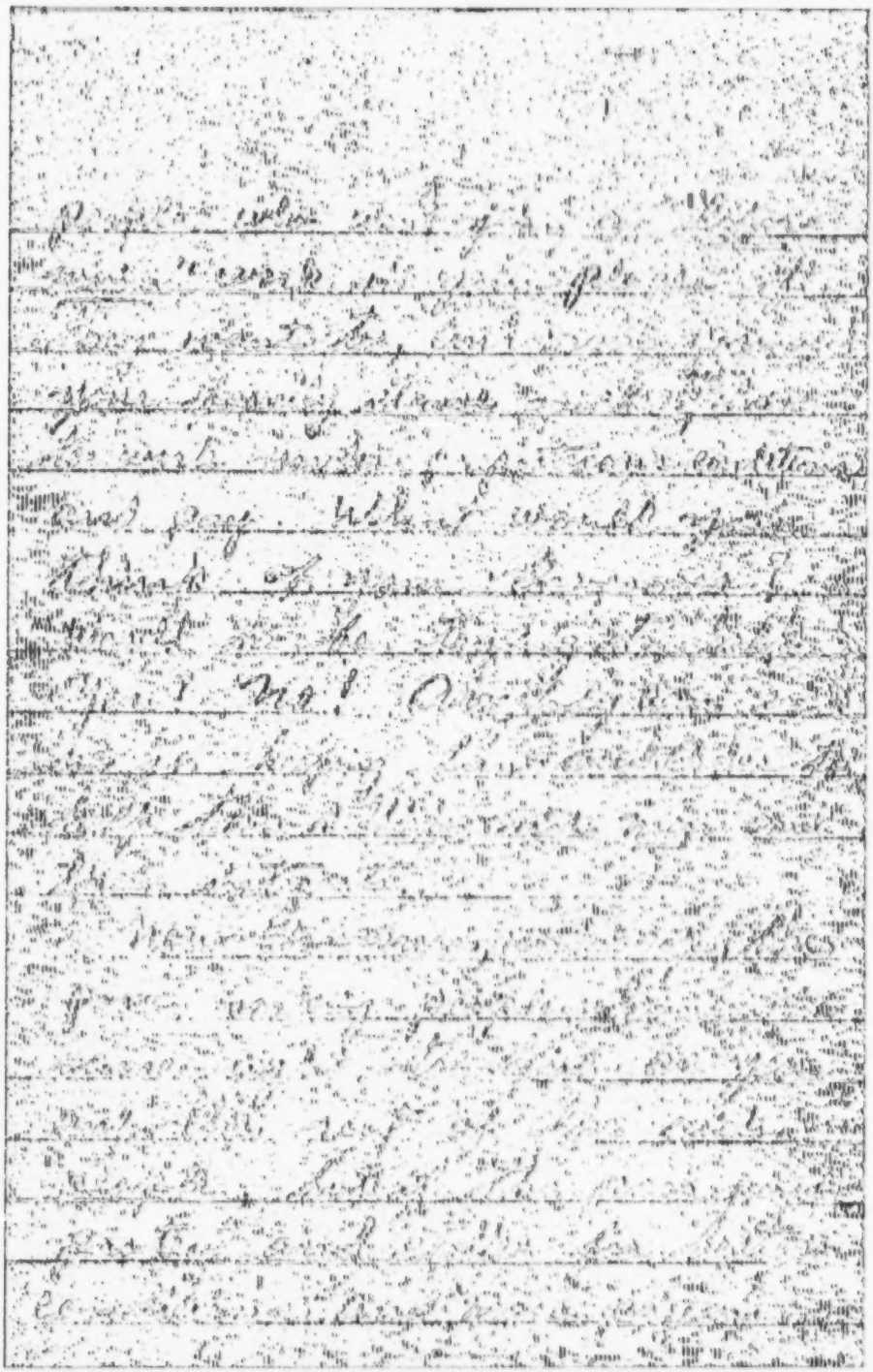

Document 3: Letter- Mr. J.A. Murphy, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 2.

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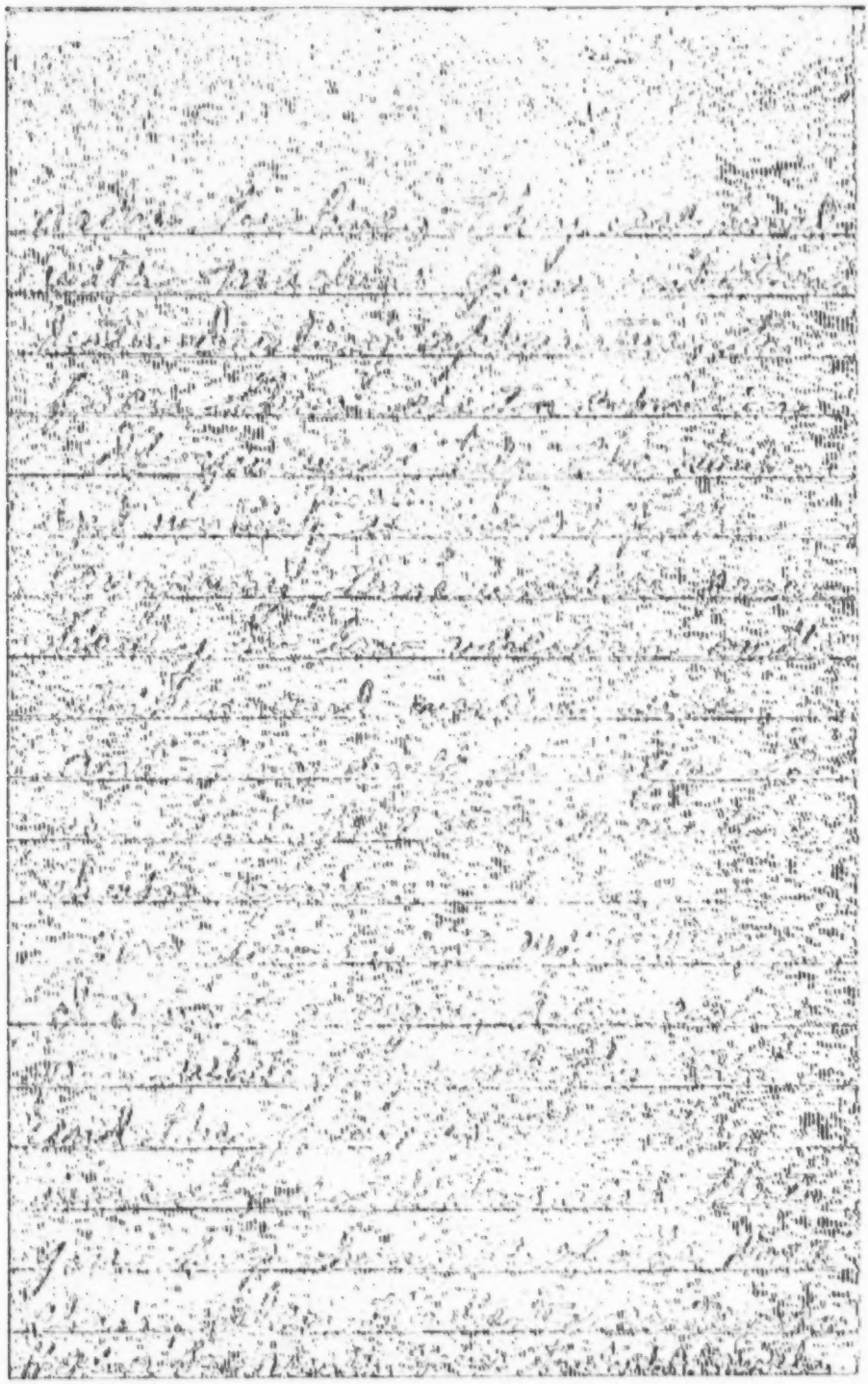

Document 3: Letter- Mr. J.A. Murphy, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 3.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

March 6, 1936.

Mr. J. A. Murphy,
1822 Pearl Ave.,
Forrest, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

Governor Miller has referred to me for attention and reply your letter of the 2nd. The Governor called out the National Guard on account of the reports that the law was being violated. Their instructions are to see that the law is obeyed and they have no other duty. It is the Governor's duty under the Constitution and law of Alabama to have the law enforced.

Yours very truly,

JOHN H. PEACH,
Legal Advisor to the Governor.

JHP:S

Document 3: Letter- Mr. J.A. Murphy, Governor B.M. Miller, Administrative files, SG19922, folder 18, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, page 4.

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302. Mine Foreman, Carbon Hill, Ala.

Document 4: "Photograph of mine foreman" WPA Alabama Writers Project, photographs, LPP 1, container 2, folder 11, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Lesson 6: Spelling "Help" in a New Way

1. Background information for teachers:

The New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a host of new federal agencies popularly known as "alphabet" agencies because they were referred to by their initials. Charged with a variety of tasks intended to offer economic relief, recovery, and reform, a handful of these agencies were created to put people to work on public projects. Young people were especially targeted in an effort to provide employment and job training while improving American communities.

IDENTIFICATIONS:

a. CCC: Civilian Conservation Corps. Created by Congress March 31, 1933 under the Unemployment Relief Act to employ young men to work in reforestation and wildlife restoration projects.

b. CWA: Civil Works Administration. Created in November 1933 to provide emergency jobs for 4 million unemployed Americans through the winter. Subsequently taken in under the WPA.

c. WPA: Works Progress Administration. Created by federal executive order in May 1934 to employ people on public works projects ranging from road and building construction to historical resource inventories.

2. Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Identify the purposes of the CCC, the CWA and the WPA

2. Discuss the economic and civic significance of the CCC, the CWA and the WPA.

3. Discuss some of the long-term effects of the New Deal programs in Alabama.

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3. Suggested Lesson:

1. Make a copy of the newspaper articles and photographs for each student.

2. After reading and evaluating the Documents, ask the students to describe the CCC, the CWA and the WPA and some of their community projects. Remind students to look for similarities and differences between the activities of the employment organizations.

3. As a class, list the contributions of the CCC, the CWA and the WPA.

4. After completing the list, ask the students to identify any parks or structures, etc. that still exist. Also, ask the students the reasons for the rat eradication project.

5. Remind the students that a good portion of our state's early archeological history and research came from the efforts of the national relief programs.

6. As a bonus, ask the students to find out if there are any local structures that came from the New Deal era. (Remember the impact of the TVA upon rural electrification in the northern portion of Alabama. Also, encourage students to interview great-grandparents who might have taken part in the New Deal programs.)

Documents:

Document 1: "CCC Boys to Explore for Moundville Relics," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, folder 410, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1.html

Document 2: "State to Obtain New CCC Camp," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, folder 410, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1b.html

Document 3: "CCC Will Take In 100,000 More Youths, And They'll Be Like This," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, folder 410, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1c.html

Document 4: "$243,017 WPA Fund Approved for State," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6994, folder 1706, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1d.html

Document 5: "WPA Hikes Pay In South $5 A Month," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6994, folder 1706, Alabama Department of

Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1e.html

Document 6: "1,500,000 Rats Killed By WPA," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6994, folder 1706, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1f.html

Document 7: "State Progresses 50 Years in 41 Months of WPA Work," ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6994, folder 1706, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1g.html

Document 8: "Huntsville High School Athletic Field," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department--Madison County, LPP 5, box 7, folder 2, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1h.html

Document 9: "Rodent Control--Geneva County," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, Geneva County, LPP5, box 5, folder 12, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1i.html

Document 10: "Rodent Control--Geneva County," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, LPP5, box 5, folder 12, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1j.html

Document 11: "C.W.A. Transit Project--Colbert County," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1k.html

Document 12: "Road Construction in Colbert County," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1l.html

Document 13: "Bridge Over Spring Creek--Colbert County," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at

http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1m.html

Document 14: "Fairfax Sewer," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, Chambers County, LPP5, box 3, folder 13, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1n.html

Document 15: "Archaeological Survey," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, Madison County, LPP5, box 7, folder 2, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and on the web at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1o.html

Document 16: "Library--Bay Minette," Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department, Baldwin County, LPP5, box 3, folder 6, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. Attached and at http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/dep/dep6/doc1p.html

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER
1-13-1938

CCC Boys To Explore For Moundville Relics

SELMA, Ala., Jan. 12.—(Special)—A branch of camp of Company 444, Dallas County's CCC camp located at Valley Creek Park, 17 miles from Selma, has been set up at Moundville, with its men assigned to the excavation of Indian mounds in that area and the construction of a concrete museum which will house many of the relics unearthed in the ancient burial grounds.

Document 1: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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BIRMINGHAM NEWS
4-3-1939

STATE TO OBTAIN NEW CCC CAMP

Cheaha Park Unit Slated; Others Reestablished

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Civilian Conservation Corps announced Saturday 27 camps would be operated in Alabama during the thirteenth enrollment period beginning Saturday.

The projects, said Director Robbert Fechner, will employ about 5,400 enrollees.

A new camp will be established in Cheaha State Park, Munford. Camps will be reestablished at Talladega National Forest, at Uriah, and at Citronelle. Fechner ordered camps closed at Talladega (one location), Chunchula and Plantersville.

Alabama's 27 camps for the thirteenth period will be located at or in the vicinity of:

Double Springs, Heflin, Andalusia, Munford (2), Chapman, Vredenburgh, Uriah, Athens, Huntsville (2), Scottsboro, Wilson Dam, Dadeville, Carrollton, Greensboro, Clanton, Alexandria, Auburn (2), Greenville, Linden, Ashland, Fort Payne, Foley, Citronelle, Moundville and Munford.

Document 2: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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ALABAMA JOURNAL
3-31-1939

CCC Will Take In 100,000 More Youths, And They'll Be Like This

BY EDDY GILMORE

WASHINGTON (AP) From coast to coast the Civilian Conservation Corps began enrolling 100,000 more American youths today.

By April 30 the corps' strength will be about 300,000. Officials say they will get some strange fellows, but the average will be a boy about like this:

Eighteen to 19 years old.

Out of work for seven months.

The breadwinner for four persons back home, who will be sent $25 every month.

He probably will come from a rural area, but most of the enrollees won't be farm boys. His "keep" will cost the government a little less than $1,000 a year.

A lot will happen to the enrollees. Some will get homesick, some will fall in love, some will get married. About 48,000 will have one or two teeth pulled.

Come next Thanksgiving, they'll eat 200 tons of turkey, have a holiday and do no work. This Summer thousands of them will play baseball, and some eventually will get jobs playing ball for money.

About 8,000 of the boys will learn to read and write, hundreds will finish grammar school work, and a few will receive college diplomas. A few won't be able to "take it" and will "desert."

Some of the boys will get rich—comparatively. Last December 27,634 CCC boys had a total deposit of $2,851,633 with the government. When they are mustered out of service, they get the money.

Hundreds of the boys will learn trades or vocations and get jobs and settle down in communities.

In six years the CCC boys have planted 1,800,000,000 trees and have saved millions of others through their firefighting. They have constructed 4,000 fire towers and 132,000 miles of road. Officials say they'll keep on doing this sort of work.

Document 3: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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ALABAMA JOURNAL - 11/14/37

$243,017 WPA Fund Approved for State

Routine Completed for Relief Work in Alabama

Governor Bibb Graves' offices announced Tuesday U. S. comptroller approval of $243,017 in new works progress administration projects. While comptroller approval completes routine for projects, they still are subject to work orders from A. P. Morgan, Jr., state WPA administrator, who may approve or reject any of them. The projects follow:

Montgomery county—Employ needy professional and educational persons to assist in summarizing data for recreational program $13,404.

Montgomery—Improve Hall and Cloverdale Park streets and alley from Tallapoosa to Water streets, $22,412.

Mobile—Provide employment in furnishing free home assistance, $13,455; county-wide project for preparation of school lunches, $14,450.

Henry county—Provide employment in furnishing free home assistance, $2,818.

Escambia county — Provide sewing room employment at Brewton, $8,961.

Walker county—Provide sewing room employment, $98,622; Cordova street improvements, $19,043.

Winston county—Provide sewing room employment, $9,674.

Marengo county—Improve Demopolis streets, $2,818.

Choctaw county—Additions to Cherokee schools, $6,876.

Russell county—Phenix City sewing room, $12,631.

Document 4: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER - 6/27/38

WPA Hikes Pay In South $5 A Month

Increase, For Unskilled Workers Only, Affects 35,880 In This State

President's Orders

Payroll In Montgomery To Rise $1,500; Henderson Is Elated By New Scale

WASHINGTON, June 26.—(AP)—The Works Progress Administration ordered today pay increases averaging about five dollars a month for all WPA workers in 13 States, mainly in the South.

The WPA estimated that 800,000 in the lowest wage brackets would benefit.

Making the announcement, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins said:

"The new minimum wage rates created for these half-million workers receiving the lowest monthly security wages, while still inadequate in my judgment, give these people something nearer to an income which will assure a minimum standard of living."

The increase was ordered at the direction of President Roosevelt, announcement said.

The States are North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma.

Hopkins said the new scale meant that no WPA worker would receive less than a dollar a day in any region.

"We have felt for some time," he said, "that our security wages in certain areas of the country were based on a standard of living below the levels of health and decency and did not bear sufficient realistic relationship to the actual cost of living."

In the same announcement, Hopkins said that monthly earnings of professional and technical workers in the higher WPA brackets would be limited to $94 in the northern and western areas, with the exception of New York City. Because of the higher cost of living, Hopkins said, the rate for New York would be $98.70.

Comparative monthly wage scales announced for the various States:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas—old scale, $21 to $35 for unskilled up to $42 to $75 for professional and technical workers; new scale, $26 to $40 for unskilled, no change in other schedules.

The announcement said the schedules for any county would be based on the 1930 population of the largest municipality in the county in accordance with the wage scales for cities.

$179,400 A Month More For Alabama

Increase by an average of $5 per month in the pay of WPA workers in the lowest wage brackets, ordered into effect in Alabama and 12 other States yesterday by Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, at the direction of the President, will mean that workers in these classifications in Alabama will receive a total of $179,400 more a month than they are getting now, according to State WPA Director W. C. Henderson.

Mr. Henderson said there were 46,000 workers on WPA rolls in this State, and of this number 78 per cent were in the lowest pay brackets. There are, therefore, 35,880 of these low pay workers, who will receive the $5 increase, the rest of the 46,000 being skilled workmen and technicians, whose wage scale remains the same.

In Montgomery, he said, the percentage of the 2,000 on WPA rolls in the city and county included in the low pay classifications was slightly lower than that for the State as a whole, or about 75 per cent. Even with this difference in percentage, however, the increase here will be $1,500 a month.

"We have been very hopeful of getting this increase for those in the low pay brackets," Mr. Henderson said, "as we have felt the amount of compensation they are and have been receiving is not adequate. I am delighted that it has at last come through. It will be of tremendous benefit to them and to the State. A man who has enough to eat and is adequately sheltered and clothed does a better job of work no matter what that work may be."

It is his judgment that people residing in rural communities have finally realized that WPA workers in the low-pay classifications are not receiving enough pay to meet their needs, and ought to get more; and that they will be glad the increase has been ordered. The farm group in general, he also believes, will share in this feeling of satisfaction.

Mr. Henderson left last night for New Orleans, to attend a meeting there of State WPA Administrators for Region Three. He expected to be back in his office here Wednesday.

Document 5: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER - 5/27/38

1,500,000 Rats Killed By WPA

WPA workers employed on endemic typhus fever control projects in various parts of Alabama under the supervision of health authorities killed more than a million and a half rats last year. Dr. J. N. Baker, State health officer, said a staff member estimated that if the rats were laid nose to tail they would reach from Montgomery to New Orleans.

Jefferson County projects resulted in the killing of 850,011 rats, or an average of approximately 1.6 rat for every resident of the county. Montgomery County's total of 443,274 rats killed during the year represented an average of slightly more than four rats per resident. The other 251,610 rats were killed in projects in other counties.

Endemic typhus fever experts estimate that, for the United States as a whole, there are two rats for every resident, but Alabama health workers estimate that the ratio in this state is higher than that, especially the urban areas.

Document 6: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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State Progresses 50 Years In 41 Months Of WPA Work

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By BILLY SMITH
Director, Information Service, WPA of Alabama

Although the Works Progress Administration has borne the brunt of much misinformed criticism from the public, one outstanding citizen of Alabama has said "Alabama has progressed nearly half a century in advance of what the State could have done for itself by itself and without Federal aid through the Works Progress Administration."

The WPA has operated in Alabama for slightly more than 41 months and during that period of time has brought the State to a point second from the top in the nation in the number of miles of newly paved highways. The sixty odd thousand employes of the WPA in Alabama with the aid and cooperation of forward looking public officials have played an important part in pushing the State of Alabama to the front ranks in stamping out illiteracy, rebuilding and paving roads and streets, erecting permanent public buildings and airports, bringing dreaded malaria under control and placing clothing on the backs of thousands of men, women and children. There are many other phases of the Work Program under the WPA which have aided in placing Alabama 50 years ahead in the short period of 41 months.

600 Teachers Employed

For instance, in Alabama, the Works Progress Administration is employing approximately 600 needy teachers in adult schools in towns, cities and rural communities where more than 12,000 adults have been taught to read and write when before they could not write their names. One elderly farmer when asked how he felt after being taught to read and write, replied "Well, I ain't miserable now." The sewing rooms operated by funds from the WPA and employing women who have no other source of income, have made more than two million garments for needy clients of the Public Welfare Department.

Cities and towns in Alabama now have 382 new public buildings from the Work Program. These buildings house the city governments, fire department and many serve as libraries, community centers and for other purposes worth a great deal to the residents of the communities where they are located.

The people residing within the limits of the cities and towns in Alabama are not the only ones by far who have benefited through the program of the WPA. Over 7,500 miles of farm-to-market roads have been paved, gravelled, widened and otherwise improved thereby bringing the farmer and his family out of the mud and mire when they leave their farms carrying their products to the markets and making it comfortable, as it should be, for the future citizens of the State on their treks to school. This number of miles of farm-to-market roads is sufficient to reach twice across the continent if placed in one line.

The bridges built with WPA assistance in Alabama if placed end to end, would be approximately ten miles in length. It is possible that the people of Alabama do not realize just what the WPA has meant to their State, even though almost daily they have the pleasure of enjoying the comfort of smooth streets and roadways, better lighting of streets, public parks and community centers and many other items.

Public Health Benefits

Health conditions in Alabama have advanced almost as far in the past three years since the inception of the WPA program as have other conditions, and a large portion of the improvement work done along these lines through WPA assistance is not visible to the eye. For instance, many miles of sanitary sewers have been laid, swamps have been drained and cities cleaned of their unsightly and unhealthful sections where disease germs may have thrived.

Nurses in the employ of the WPA have done much through visits and examinations, in assisting county health officers and in operating clinics where persons financially unable to secure treatment or vaccinations were well cared for. Such work cannot be valued in dollars and cents but more in the number of lives saved and the amount of suffering avoided by persons who might, without this help, be bedridden with disease. Over one million persons in Alabama have been immunized against communicable diseases.

The malaria control projects over the State cost money, it is true, but, who can estimate in dollars and cents what this is worth to a community that had been laboring under the dreaded malaria?

School Buildings

Alabama has been the beneficiary of a great program of improvement along educational lines through the

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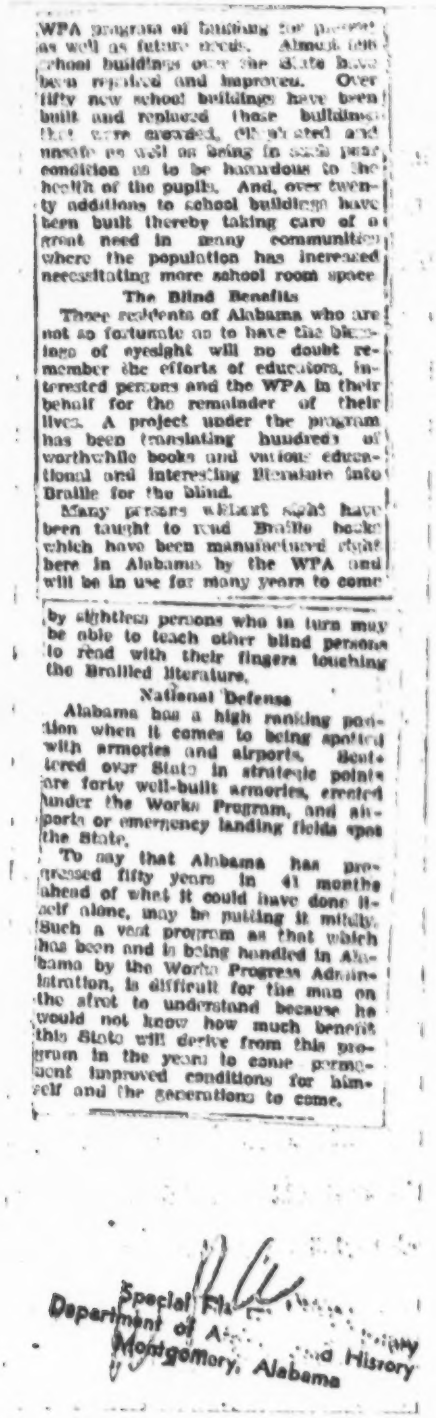

WPA program of building for present as well as future needs. Almost 600 school buildings over the State have been repaired and improved. Over fifty new school buildings have been built and replaced those buildings that were crowded, dilapidated and unsafe as well as being in such poor condition as to be hazardous to the health of the pupils. And, over twenty additions to school buildings have been built thereby taking care of a great need in many communities where the population has increased necessitating more school room space.

The Blind Benefits

These residents of Alabama who are not so fortunate as to have the blessings of eyesight will no doubt remember the efforts of educators, interested persons and the WPA in their behalf for the remainder of their lives. A project under the program has been translating hundreds of worthwhile books and various educational and interesting literature into Braille for the blind.

Many persons without sight have been taught to read Braille books which have been manufactured right here in Alabama by the WPA and will be in use for many years to come by sightless persons who in turn may be able to teach other blind persons to read with their fingers touching the Brailled literature.

National Defense

Alabama has a high ranking position when it comes to being spotted with armories and airports. Scattered over State in strategic points are forty well-built armories, erected under the Works Program, and airports or emergency landing fields spot the State.

To say that Alabama has progressed fifty years in 41 months ahead of what it could have done itself alone, may be putting it mildly. Such a vast program as that which has been and is being handled in Alabama by the Works Progress Administration, is difficult for the man on the street to understand because he would not know how much benefit this State will derive from this program in the years to come permanent improved conditions for himself and the generations to come.

Special Fi...
Department of A... History
Montgomery, Alabama

Document 7: Newspaper articles and photographs, ADAH Public Information Subject Files, SG6949, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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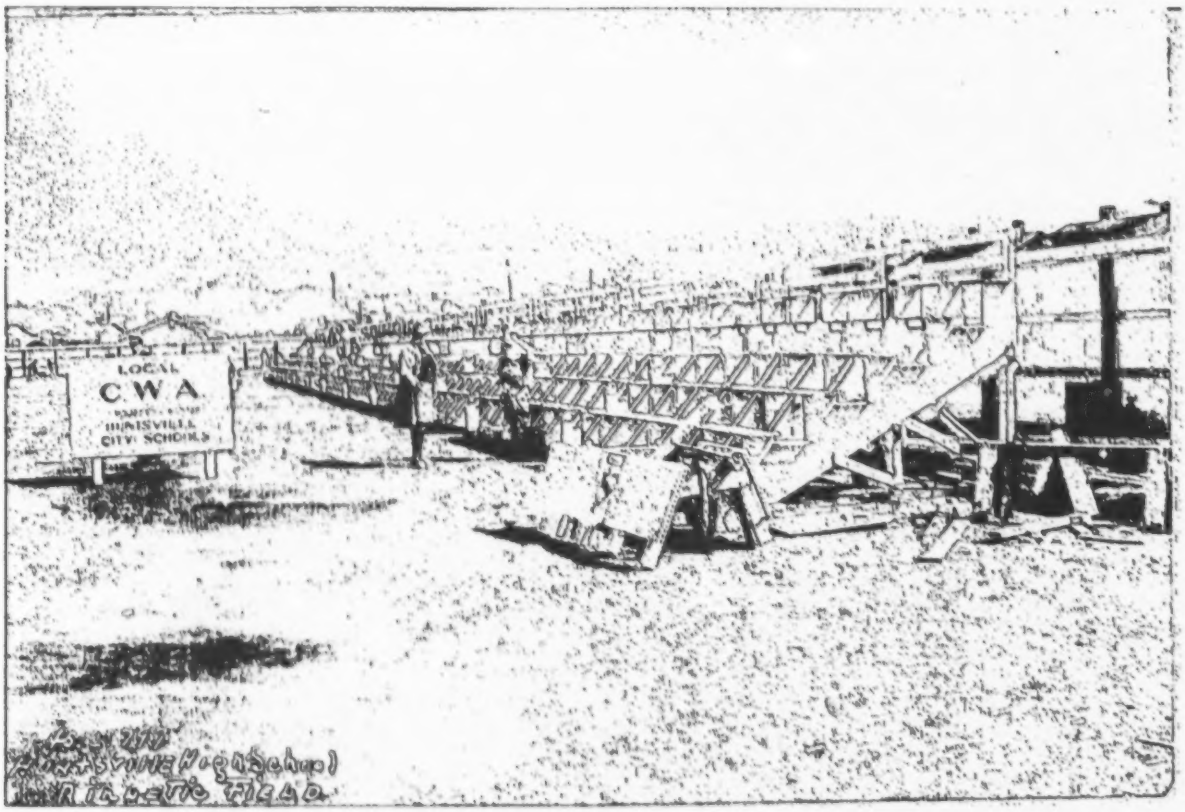

Huntsville High School Athletic Field

Document 8: Civil Works Administration Photograph, 1933-1934, Safety and Compensation Department. Madison County, LPP 5, box 7, folder 2, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Rodent Control, Geneva County

Document 9: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Geneva County, LPP5, box 5, folder 12, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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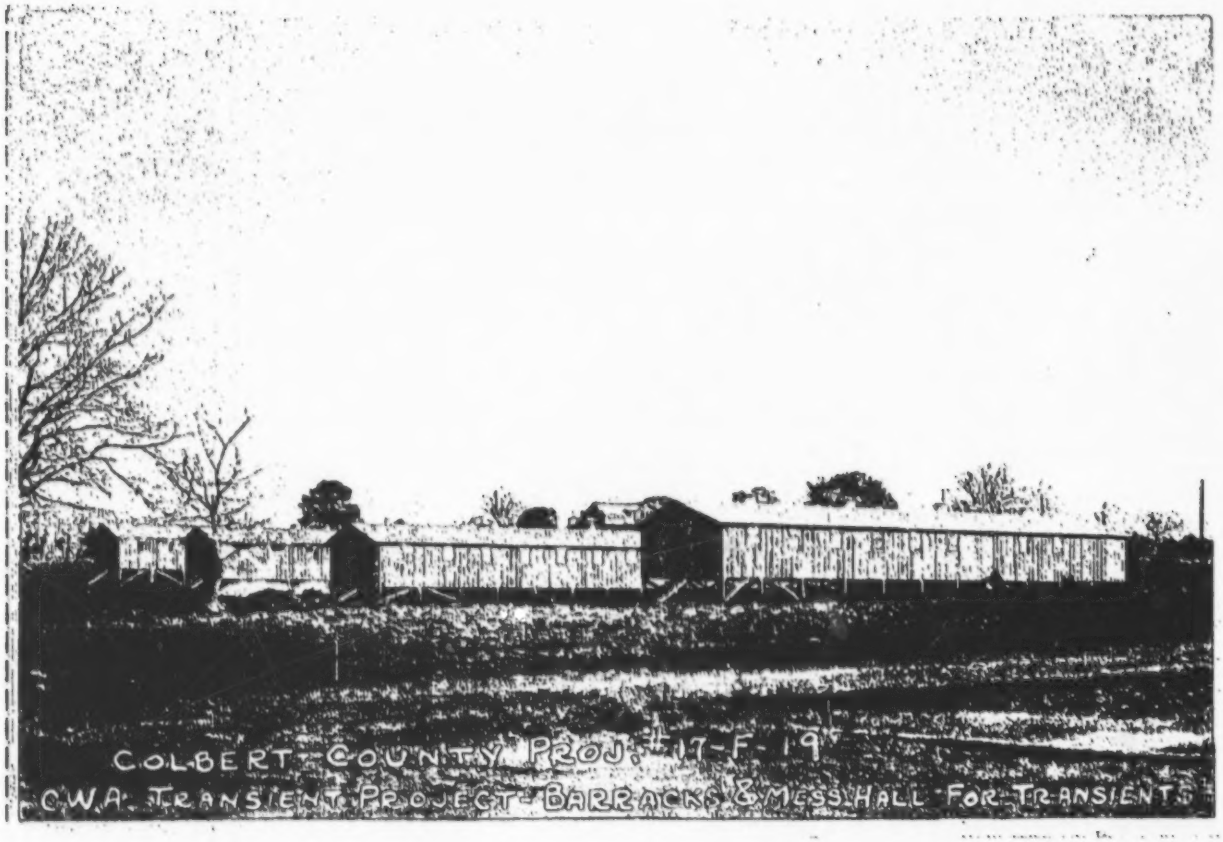
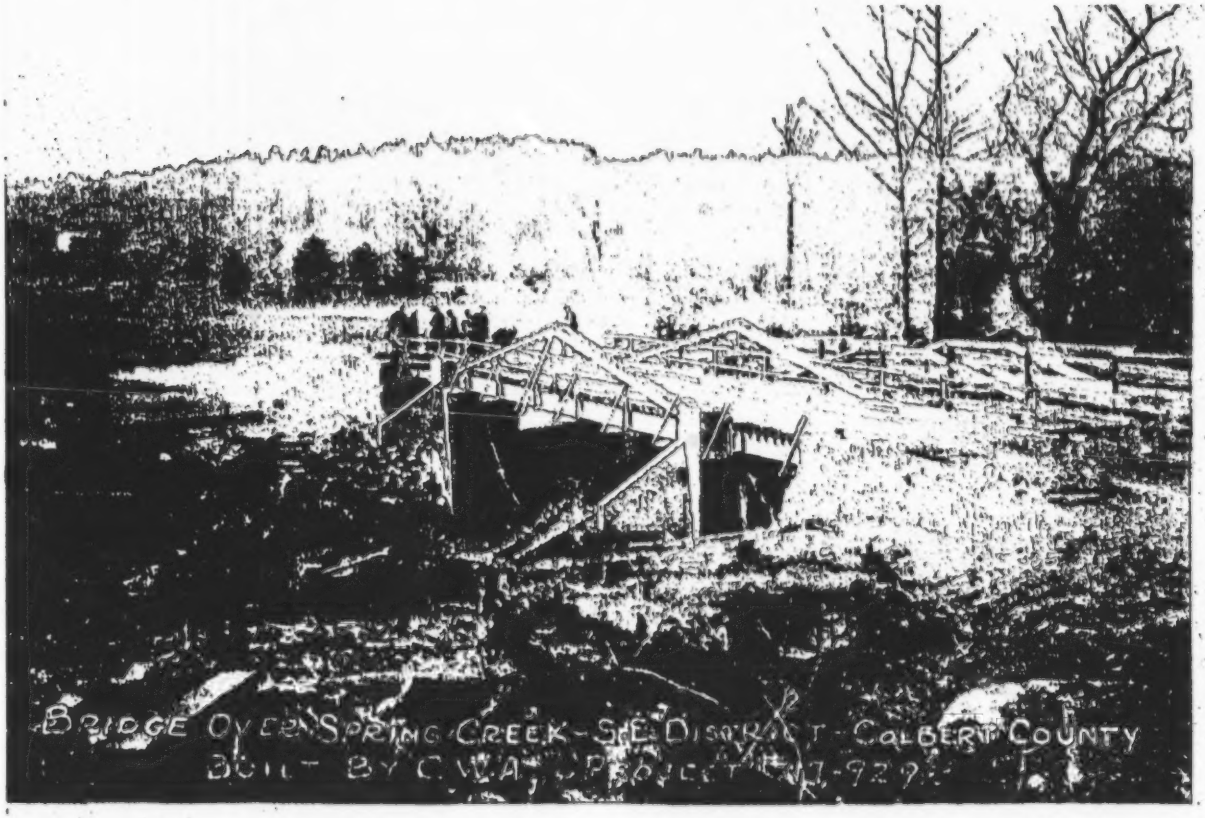


C.W.A. Transit Project - Barracks & Mess Hall for Transients

Document 11: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Colbert County, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

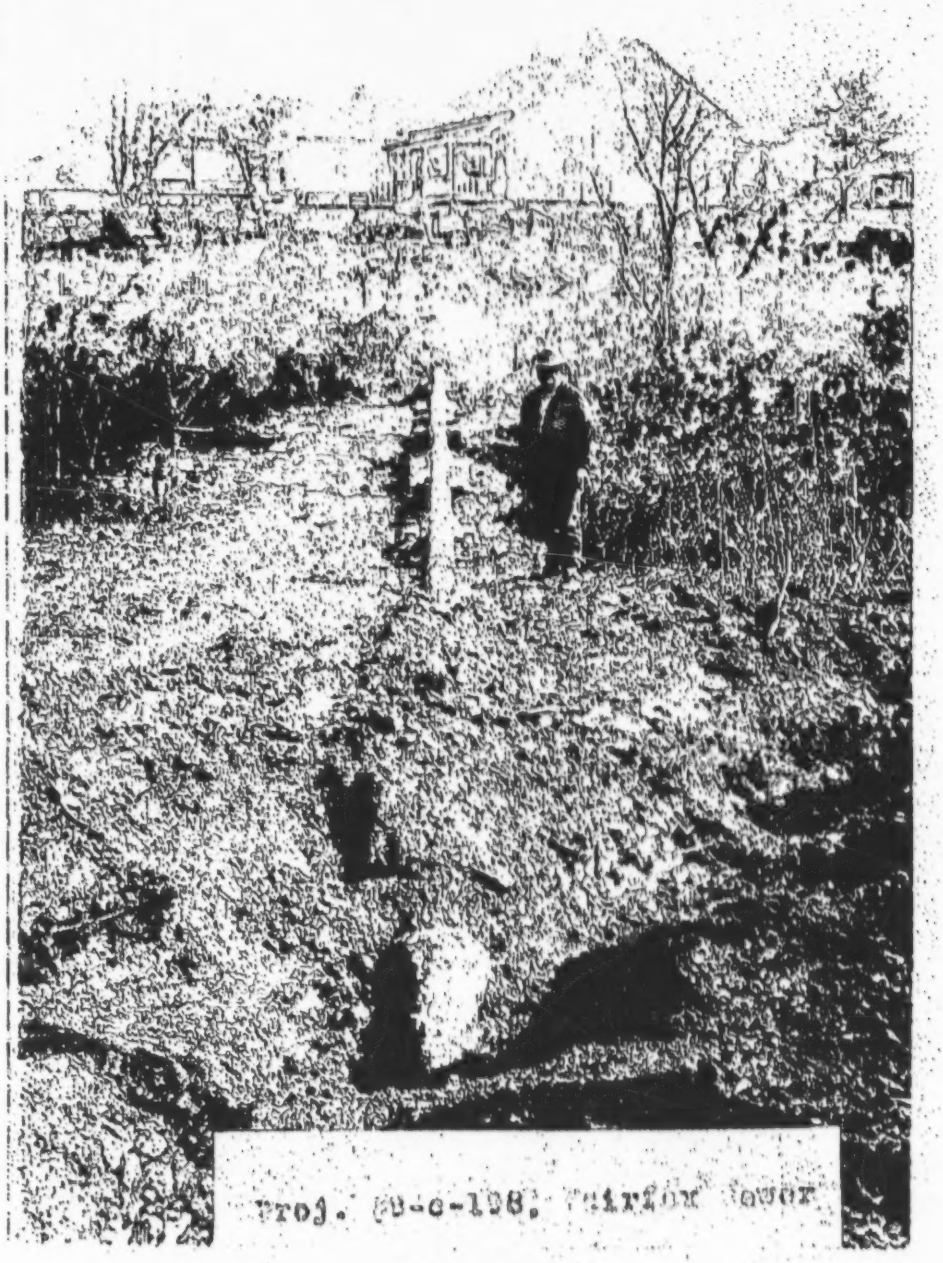
Road Construction in Colbert County

Document 12: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Colbert County, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.



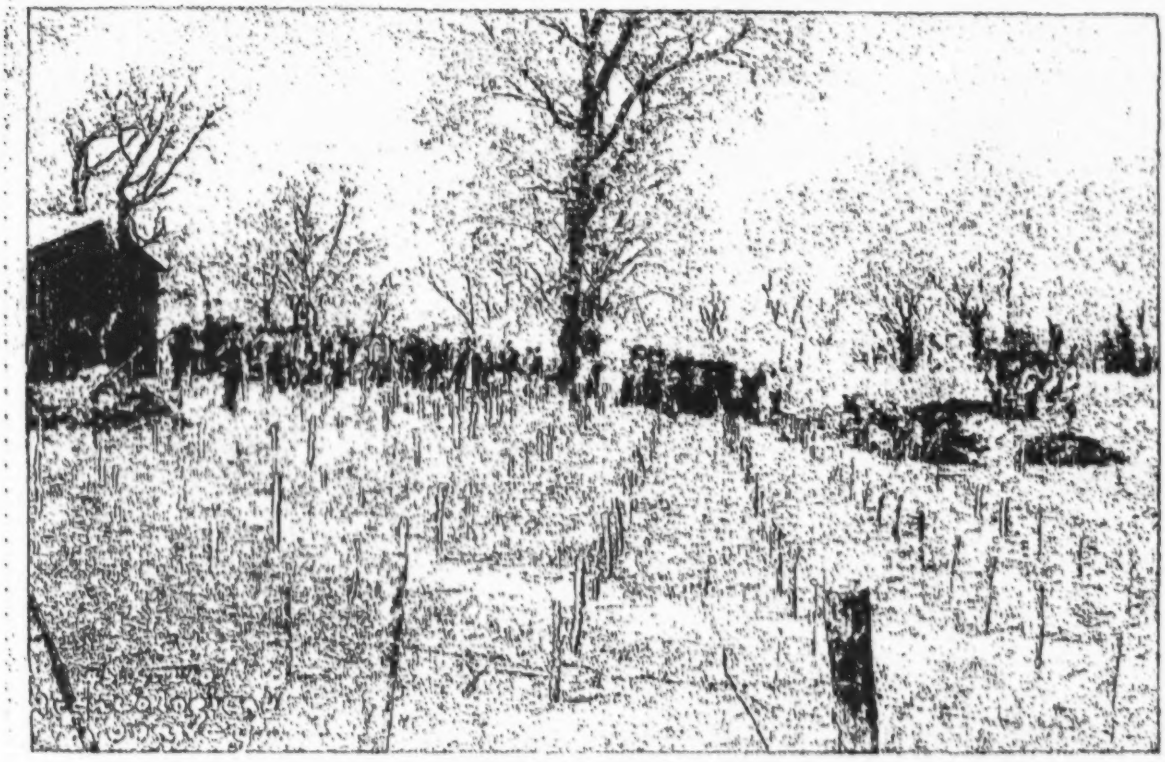
Bridge Over Spring Creek - S.E. District - Colbert County

Document 13: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Colbert County, LPP5, box 4, folder 8, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.



Fairfax Sewer

Document 14: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Chambers County, LPP5, box 3, folder 13, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.



Archaeological Survey

Document 15: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Madison County, LPP5, box 7, folder 2, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

Library, Bay Minette

Document 16: Civil Works Administration Photographs, 1933-1934 Safety and Compensation Department, Baldwin County, LPP5, box 3, folder 6, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

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